

# I've Became Able to Do Anything with My Growth Cheat, but I Can't Seem to Get out of Being Jobless

Arc 8 - Pirates and Piracy Arc

by Yousuke Tokino

[Novel Updates](#)

Translator: [TseirpTranslations](#)

Epub: [Trollo WN/LN EPUB](#)

## (178) Prologue

Under the brilliant sunlight, the sailing ship failed to sail through the ocean. That's right, failed.

"I totally didn't expect the lull to continue on for so long ... "

Water could be created using magic while there were vast amounts of vegetables available as a food source in My World. Furthermore, even without a bath, body cleanliness can be maintained using the 「Clean」 magic so it won't lead to illness. As there wasn't any danger to our lives, this lull period was extremely boring. Even if I tried to use Wind Magic, they are a type of offensive magic so it would surely break the sail. Surprisingly, magic was hard to utilize apart from the magic of Lifestyle Magic.

Although being impatient won't change a thing, to be honest, I was extremely tired of having only vegetables to eat.

As such, I was now amusing myself with fishing.

I had Pionia construct the fishing rod, fishing line, and fishing hook. She truly is a dexterous person.

As for the bait, I cut the dried meat into small pieces for now.

Wearing the same straw hat made by Pionia, Carol and I both fished side by side.

"Oh, by the way, Carol, you've acquired the Angler job after your Farmer level increased right?"

I suddenly thought of it and asked Carol.

As the Farmer level rises, it will open up jobs such as Whip-user, Angler, Harvester, Cook, and Sickle-user in that sequence.

Even though I still don't quite understand how the Whip-user is related to a Farmer, since Carol has already acquired the Harvester job, she should have acquired the Angler job too.

Incidentally, her Harvester job level increased as a result of that day's battle

so she acquired the Apprentice Herbalist job but as she didn't learn a single recipe, she can't create a single medicine.

"Yes, I have. Angler is a job that can earn experience points by fishing."

"Well then, maybe I should change Carol's job to Angler ... My Farmer level has not leveled up after all."

My Farmer level was still currently at Lv3.

I've been reminding myself to train it. I wanted to become a Monster-user after getting Whip-user after all.

"Thank you. If Carol's Angler level increases, Carol will be able to raise the Dismantling skill too."

"Eh? An angler can raise Dismantling level too?"

"Yes. Carol heard that there are three types of jobs that can raise the Dismantling level, Hunter, Angler, and Dismantler."

I see, I didn't know that.

Thanks to the rise in level of my Dismantler job, I have quite considerable skill in the art of dismantling but the level can rise even further huh?

"This reminds me of when I went fishing with my family."

I muttered without thinking.

"Family ... huh."

Carol's expression darkened instantly.

"Ah, sorry."

I apologized immediately.

Both of Carol's parents were already dead. The reason was due to the skill Carol possess.

The topic on family was taboo.

"No, it's all right. Carol also wish to hear about Ichino-sama's family and furthermore, to Carol now, Ichino-sama, Haru-san and Malina-san are my family."

“I see. Yup, for me too, I have Carol, Haru and Malina so I won’t be lonely even if I don’t meet my younger sister.”

Conversely, I wondered how my younger sister was feeling ... I looked up to the sky.

Miri’s feelings, in a different world, having lost her brother and parents and with only money to accompany her. I definitely won’t forget my sin of leaving her behind alone.

“And so, Ichino-sama. Did this fishing remind you of something?”

“Hn? Yeah. It just reminded me of the time when my younger sister Miri fished up something called a tuna weighing 420 kilograms during a fishing competition.”

“It’s an extraordinary story even when you’re just starting from the introduction!?”

The wind blew just as I started talking.

“The wind is here! Carol, please prepare the sails!”

“Yes, Ichino-sama! Please make sure to tell Carol the continuation of that story!”

“Okay! There’s also a battle story with a giant squid!”

The ship finally started sailing.

Towards Port Kobe.

※ ※ ※

It has been a week since we started our voyage.

According to Carol, we should be seeing signs of land soon but all I could see was the shadow of the ship. Turning to look in another direction, I saw something coming straight for us.

It looked like the ship ahead of us noticed us.

“Hard to starboard!”

The ship tilted to the right as I turned right. I don’t know which side is

starboard which side is port but I was probably right.

“Carol, we’ve done it! Now, we can find out the exact distance to Port Kobe!”

I shouted loudly but Carol’s complexion didn’t look too good when the opposing ship matched our turn and their sail came into sight.

“Ichino-sama, please prepare for battle just in case.”

Maybe Carol was holding herself back from pouring water on my joy as she said softly.

” ... Eh?”

Preparations for battle?

“Normally, ships won’t change their direction towards another ship they see ... unless.”

“Ah ... you mean that possibility.”

I finally got it after she explained it that way.

In other words —

As the ship in the horizon steadily grew bigger, I finally saw it.

The sail was black and depicted a skull mark.

A stereotypical pirate ship.

How do I put this, what a promising development?

“Hn, I wonder if they will tell me the distance to Port Kobe if I give them a barrel full of tomato and wine?”

I said with a wry smile.

If they are still hostile after I give them tomato and wine, I’ll just have to sink their ship.

## **(179) Is that a pirate ... or ...**

In the mountains, they are called bandits(mountain thieves); in the sea, they are called pirates(sea thieves).

I laughed wryly at that extremely simple naming sense but the real Pirate was an advanced job for the Thief. I didn't know if all the pirates had Pirate as their jobs but if there were any among the enemies, I couldn't afford to be careless.

I once fought with a bandit. At that time, due to my immaturity, I exposed Haru to danger and it led to the death of two others.

"Carol, please return to My World for now."

I ordered Carol.

Even if it becomes a fight, I don't intend to lose but we were on a ship. We didn't have the geographical advantage (land advantage). Well, there's truly no land to stand on after all. How one fight changes at sea and in the worst case scenario that our ship gets sunk, I would have to snatch the opponent's ship.

I couldn't leave Carol to fend for herself in such a dangerous fight.

" ... Carol wants to observe it ... but, Carol will probably be a burden. I understand."

Carol nodded and before she entered the spatial rift that I opened,

"Ichino-sama. Please promise that you will not be reckless."

She said worriedly.

"Of course, I don't plan to do anything reckless. If possible, I would like to negotiate peacefully."

I grinned and Carol replied with a smile.

"I wish you the fortunes of war." Carol said before she left.

Fortunes of war, doesn't that assume that it will become a fight ... well, it would probably end that way.

After closing the spatial rift which was the door to My World, I stood at the

bow of the ship.

The pirate ship — the ship with a black sail painted with the mark of a skull gradually drew closer.

As the distance shortened, I could grasp the size of the ship.

It was just slightly larger than our ship but it was pretty much the same size. It's just that their sail was tattered and there was evidence that the side of the ship has been repaired many times, I was amazed that it could stay afloat.

There were about ten human presences on the ship. Assuming that it was not a slave ship or they did not hold any hostages, everyone on the ship would be a pirate. Well, it's a fantasy world after all so the pirate ship might even be ferrying customers.

I guess that is the pirate ship captain?

A man wearing an eye-patch with a respectable beard pointed the blade of the saber he held at me,

“Stop right there! We will be taking that ship.”

He shouted. Looks like there's no room for negotiations.

Of course, the ship was a precious ship made by Pionia so I won't hand it over so easily.

“I refuse! A part of our cargo — I'll give you a full barrel of wine and tomato! Would that be enough to satisfy you!?”

“Don't joke with me! Against pirates ... hmm, that's a little attractive but ... no, we need a ship! That ship — hey! Hurry up and stop the ship!”

The pirate exclaimed.

That's right, it was about time I stopped the ship.

At that moment, I threw a question at the pirates.

“Sorry. How do you stop a ship?”

The pirate captain's face turned blue the moment I said that.

“Hard to port!”

And he screamed. The pirate ship took a large left or swerved right from where I was looking from. Normally, I would have to make a hard turn to port as well so that the tragedy that was about to unfold wouldn't happen but that was impossible. After all, it was also my job to steer the ship and from the moment I let go of the ship's wheel to stand here, it was already too late.

The result — our sailing ship rammed into the side of the pirate ship.

I tentatively leaped backward to be safe.

"Ah, as expected of a ship made by Pionia. Even though the pirate ship was tattered, we've not suffered much damage."

The bow of our ship rode onto the other ship.

While I was feeling impressed, a single young man slashed at me with a saber.

I pulled the steel sword that I always wore on my waist from its sheath and from bottom up, I hooked the handle of the saber and raised it up. As the man was still stunned from seeing his saber fly into the air, I sent a kick to his stomach and returned him to the pirate captain.

"Now then, since you've seen the difference in our ability, I'd like it if you guys just leave."

I provoked them but as expected, it won't go so smoothly.

All the pirates held the same type of sabers in their hands.

Was there a buy two get one free campaign somewhere? All of them had exactly the same saber after all. However, if it was truly such a campaign then if they bought 9 they would lack 1 but if they bought 12 then they would have 1 extra. Everyone had theirs drawn so maybe the sheaths were sold separately? While thinking about such absurd things, I looked at the pirates' jobs.

Then, I found it strange when I saw all their jobs.

Most of the people were Anglers or Fishermen. Not to mention Pirate, there weren't even any Thieves.

"... Did you guys give up on fishing and turn to piracy?"

""Guh.""



Looks like I hit the bulls-eye.

Looking closely, I saw nets and harpoons that fishermen would use on the deck and more importantly, I saw that on the back of the sail they used to paint the mark of the skull, the banner fishermen hoist when they have a rich haul had been secretly raised.

More important than the fact that it was originally a fishing vessel, I was more surprised that this European-style world had the rich haul banner. (TL: *Google image* 大漁旗)

Was it handed down by a person formerly from Japan?

“Hn”

It would be better if all of them were miscreants like pirates but they would definitely put the blame of destroying their ship on me and as for the guy I kicked, perhaps I kicked a bad spot because even though I held back, he was still convulsing and twitching. I had apparently grown too much that I had difficulties holding back.

If I fought like this, there would most likely be deaths.

“I guess I can’t help it ... I actually wanted to refrain from using magic for a while.”

Mainly it was so that I could replenish Pionia’s magical power.

But, if it was just a little more — there shouldn’t be any problems if I didn’t use magical power boost.

“You guys, look carefully.”

I took out a staff from my item box and pointed it to the sea.

Then,

“Ancient Nova!”

A huge ball of flame burst from the tip of the staff and the instant that disappeared, a ray of magic shot out from the tip.

Immediately after that, that ray hit the ocean surface about 1 kilometer away — and suddenly caused a massive explosion.

Looks like it still has considerable power even without Boost.

Then, I pointed the staff at the pirates.

I was able to witness them all prostrating splendidly.

※ ※ ※

“My bad for destroying your ship. So, why did you guys turn from fishing to piracy?”

I asked as I applied Healing Magic on the man I kicked just now.

The pirate leader removed the beard that was apparently a stick-on beard.

“We were merely Fishermen just yesterday.”

“Yes, I can tell just by observing you guys.”

” ..... ”

For some reason, the pirates were at a loss for words when I nodded.

It seemed like they thought they had been able to properly act as pirates.

Or rather, I wanted to retort that if they really wanted to become pirates, they should refrain from hiding the rich haul banner behind the pirate flag.

“Seriously, just stick to fishing if you guys are fishermen ... ”

As I said that, I thought that perhaps because of the effect of the Leviathan’s revival, the fishes all hid in their nests and the fishermen were out of work ... I would feel responsible if that was the case.

“Actually, there is a profound reason for this.”

The pirates all started shedding tears and some began hitting the deck.

Now that it came to that, it was no longer an atmosphere where I could leave them alone.

I couldn’t ask them the distance to the continent at all.

” ... A profound reason?”

I asked reservedly and the ship captain replied.

“Yes — it’s that crafty Demon Lord — the work of that Miryuu.”

## (180) Appealing with tears

“Demon Lord Miryuu? Don’t you mean Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei?”

I pretended to ask calmly but Goddess-sama told me that it was Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei who was heading for Port Kobe.

Or did Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei change name to Miryuu?

The Demon Lord then forced the fishermen to become pirates to work for them and harass the neighboring citizens?

From the way Haru described it, the Famiris·Raritei did not seem to be an evil Demon Lord. However, she was defeated by humans once.

Perhaps there’s a chance that the Demon Lord holds a grudge against humans because of that? As I was mulled over that,

“Ah, no no. Calling her a Demon Lord is just a metaphor, she’s actually just a Hume girl. About this tall.”

The pirate chief raised himself from his prostrating posture to a kneeling position and indicated a height of about 120 to 130cm. About Carol or Miri’s height.

“What did that Miryuu person do?”

“That Miryuu girl appeared riding a huge white wolf and crushed the pirate gangs that operated around Port Kobe.”

“The wolf could swim in the sea?”

“Yes, they apparently came over by swimming through the sea. They landed at the base of a pirate gang and — that pirate gang was completely crushed. Although there weren’t any deaths, because of the traumatic event, the former pirates all lamented the transiency of life and abandoned the life of the sea and set off on a pioneering journey to create new villages.”

“Eh, doesn’t that mean that Miryuu is a good person?”

“Not at all! Pirates seem to be villains at first glance but to us fishermen, they are a necessary evil. You might not be aware but fishery dispute is inherent in

our business and especially at sea with fishing boats from other countries, disputes happen all the time. However, by paying the pirates protection money, they will protect us from the fishing boats from other countries. Not only fishing boats, even merchant ships can benefit from the protection against pirates who claim the territory of other towns or countries. As long as we don't have that protection, we can no longer fish at ease. That's why we became pirates, to fill in for that lost security — ”

“Then, does that mean you all became pirates in the name of justice?”

“There's also the part where those pirates normally boss others around and snatch goods from unauthorized merchant boats so we thought that we could live easier lives. Now that the other pirates were no longer around, we thought that it was our chance ... we lost ourselves to the temptation.”

“So that's when you attacked my ship. I do sympathize with you guys a little but I can't turn a blind eye after all — by the way, if we let that Miryuu to her own devices, won't she annihilate the pirate gangs of other towns and countries? Then, without the danger of other pirates attacking the merchant ships, you guys can just create a Fishing Union and resolve all the territorial disputes among the fishermen.”

“That won't happen. I don't know what goes on in that Miryuu's mind but she won't move from the pirate hideout near Port Kobe. The ban on the shrimp fishing for the Shijimon Shrimp happens in another 3 days.”

“Shijimon Shrimp?”

That's a shrimp I've never heard of. If Carol was with me, she would probably have told me what kind of shrimp it was.

“We fishermen living in Port Kobe earn about half a year's worth of money from the once a year Shijimon Shrimp fishing. Every year during that time, we will get into a fishing dispute with the neighboring town Port Ithaca but because the pirates of Port Kobe and those of Port Ithaca keep each other in check, we can somehow secure half of the Shijimon Shrimp fishing ground. However, with the Port Kobe pirates gone, that fishing ground would be completely snatched by the people from Port Ithaca and we Port Kobe fishermen will not survive. We tried to borrow your ship only for the sake of increasing the number of pirate

vessels so that we can intimidate the opponent.”

He said ‘borrow’ but he was clearly trying to steal it.

“Haa ... well, good luck.”

It looked somewhat troublesome.

Okay, ignore it ignore it. Let’s assume they escaped because I forgot to watch them — or that was my plan but now all the pirates pleaded to me,

“Please! Even if it’s just for this fishing season, please pretend to be a pirate and help us fishermen!”

“Why should I do that — ”

“Please! I beg of you, please help us.”

All the pirates were crying.

This ... ugh.

” ... I’ll discuss with my companions. Since I don’t have any guarantee that everything you guys said was true after all. Also, guide us to Port Kobe.”

After I said that, the pirates all had smiles on and once again worshiped me.

I returned to the cabin and called Carol out.

I confirmed the jobs of the pirates and there weren’t any with combat-oriented jobs so there was no need to worry about them attacking Carol.

“Shijimon Shrimp huh? They are the highest grade of shrimps. Normally, they live between the crevices of rocks at the depths of the ocean and are impossible to catch but once a year, they migrate to relatively shallower places to lay eggs during the spawning season. The fishing will be done during the half a day period after the Shijimon Shrimp finish laying their eggs and start migrating back to the ocean. What they said about them earning half a year’s worth of money from that one day was not a lie and the Shijimon Shrimp caught by Port Kobe will be sold to the world by merchant ships while those caught by Port Ithaca will be consumed solely within the Western Continent. Due of that, the transportation fee involved in the sale of those shrimps coming from Port Kobe when sold to other continents increases the price of it, causing rumors that the

shrimps from Port Kobe are of higher quality than those from Port Ithaca to spread, much to the displeasure of Port Ithaca, resulting in the constant skirmishes called fishing disputes between the two ports — that's what Carol has heard."

"But we have to meet up with Haru as soon as possible."

"Ichino-sama, most likely we can only meet up with Haru at Port Kobe after the fishing season for Shijimon Shrimp is over. We need to take a scheduled ship from Port Ithaca to travel to Port Kobe. Port Kobe is called a solitary island isolated on land after all, with transport to and from the port being extremely inconvenient."

"Why is there a town in such a place?"

"Because the sea around Port Ithaca is shallow so large vessels can't enter."

... Carol really knows everything.

The pirates were also nodding to the explanation from Carol.

"Then why can't Haru and the others come to Port Ithaca?"

"That's because the scheduled ship route is through the Shijimon Shrimp fishing site. To make sure the Shijimon Shrimp will feel safe to surface, there will be no scheduled ships a week before the spawning season."

"What about sailing directly to Port Kobe with our ship?"

"During this period, the entry to the fishing site is prohibited by law so if we are discovered, our ship might be confiscated or even worse, there is a possibility that we might be imprisoned ..."

I could tell from Carol's expression that she did not recommend it.

In other words, the earliest Haru and the others could come to us would be after 3 days.

"Also, I think I should say this but to Peddlers, it's also true that pirates are not necessarily evil. I do feel that they went too far by trying to snatch the boat without letting us speak but we also are at fault for sailing without a permit. We were sailing with very little crew so they might have thought that we were smuggling goods. To pirates, smuggler ships are like mountains of treasure.

Most smuggling ships are managed by pirates too so by attacking them, they can also snatch power from other pirate organizations.”

The pirates nodded countless times as Carol spoke. Well, it’s true that normally there won’t be so little people working on a ship. In other words, they thought that I was a smuggler who broke into their territory thinking that the pirates of Port Kobe were gone. Well, nevertheless, I still don’t think that warrants their behavior.

“Until the fishing season is over ... okay? Let me say this first, I will not become your ally to destroy the pirates from Port Ithaca nor will I assist you to monopolize the fishing site. I don’t intend to act like an actual pirate. Also, once everything is over, you guys will promise me to not become pirates again.”

“Of course, that is more than enough!”

“Also, you guys will promise me to not perform piracy again. Once the fishing is over, sign an agreement to prepare for next year. Work with the people from Port Kobe.”

“That is not up to us alone. It will depend on what everyone thinks —”

And so I glared at them with murderous intent as they tried to object.

“We will, of course, convince them!”

Thus, although it was supposed to be a pirate extermination, I ended up having to pretend to be a pirate.

## **(181) If you want to work**

After repairing the beaten up pirate ship — which was originally a fishing ship, I sailed our sailing ship alongside their fishing ship towards the northwest direction.

Only Carol and I were on the ship. The pirate crew, who were originally fishermen, were shocked at that fact.

“The construct of this sailing ship is unique as it seems to have really been

devised to be able to sail with a small number of people. The person who made this ship is a genius!”

Hearing them praise Pionia made me as happy as if they praised me directly.

She can't exit into this world. From the day she came to life until the day she ceases to function, she would live in my world and die in my world. However, the things she builds can be recognized by the people from the outside world like this. Even though she can't come out, it's really great to see proof that she is alive spread to the world like this.

They asked for the ship's blueprint so I planned to hand it to them if Pionia was okay with it.

“Ichino-sama, are you okay?”

Carol asked me as I was handling the wheel.

“About what? I'm not feeling tired.”

” ... Even if Ichino-sama wants to become the allies of those former fishermen pirates, Carol doesn't see why Ichino-sama must pretend to be a pirate as well. Carol has heard that the reincarnated people abhor pirates more than us.”

“Oh~. Well, in my time, becoming a pirate was an extremely popular occupation in a sense ... that only applies to stories though.” *(TL: He's most likely referring to One Piece.)*

I smiled wryly as I thought that Malina would have understood my joke if she was there.

“I guess — I was the same too. Nevertheless, I envy those guys.”

“Envy ... ?”

“Ah, I'm not saying that I envy their acts of piracy okay? Erm, I think I told Carol before. I was jobless when I was in Japan.”

“Jobless as in ... like Ichino-sama's current job?”

“No, not this Jobless but not doing any work and not given the chance to do any work. Even if I went for job interviews, everything fell apart. Since my younger sister Miri was earning enough money to be independent, I wanted to



quit my life of part-time jobs and get a permanent job so I went for all kinds of interviews. But like I described earlier, I was completely crushed.”

I looked up at the sky. Some seagull-like bird was flying above our ship without me noticing.

“I thought about it. About why I was failing my interviews. Miri found all kinds of job openings for me but all of them didn’t work out. But now I understand why I failed those interviews. I — in the end, didn’t actually want to work, I purely just hated my unemployed self.”

Even though I thought I wanted to work, I didn’t know what kind of job I wanted to do. Or rather, I was fine with doing anything as long as I got a job.

Of course I would fail the interviews. Even an interviewer without good intuition would be able to tell.

(Hah, telling them that I wanted to work regardless of what job it was would conversely make them feel that I wasn’t determined to approach them for the job.)

No matter how I try to gloss over that fact, they would probably notice it.

“Carol might not be able to see it but those guys’ jobs are all either Fishermen or Angler. Even though they are holding swords, they are practically not equipped to fight — they are even holding their sabers without any sheathes.”

In this world, without the dedicated weapon skill, one can’t use that particular weapon. I also had a hard time in the past as I couldn’t even unsheathe the iron sword I had on my waist before I acquired the Sword Equip skill. To avoid that, one must first change job to Apprentice Swordsmen and level up by swinging a sword to acquire the Sword Equip skill.

Despite that fact, those guys just came over as Fishermen and Anglers and had not changed their jobs.

Despite knowing that their swords can’t possibly cut anybody like that.

Those guys probably had not given up on their fishing job in the truest sense. Because they love the job of fishing.

“Ichino-sama. Then, for the sake of letting them work as fishermen —”

“Yeah, well. Naturally, I still intend to listen to what they want us to do and I will refuse if it is dangerous — I’ll put on a mask for now so there won’t be any trouble even if we are discovered. If the army chases after us then we can just escape into My World. Instead, I am more concerned about that Miryuu girl who is going around crushing pirates.”

“Ichino-sama won’t lose to anyone as long as the opponent is human.”

” ... Are you sure? She might actually be a berserk demon pretending to be human you know?”

I made it sound terrible and Carol trembled slightly so I laughed and pat Carol’s head.

“I’m just joking. Well, even if she’s a demon, we’ll be fine once we escape to My World. That place is like the Goddess-samas’ domain so she won’t follow after us.”

“That’s true —”

“Ah, more importantly, there’s the issue of the Demon Lord — the Demon Lord is apparently heading towards Port Kobe too.”

If I knew this was going to happen, I would have asked Haru to tell me about the Demon Lord in more detail.

Since the Demon Lord was Haru’s master, we should be able to get along right? Although it’s possible that they will think I was a bad person who made Haru into a slave and attack me. At least if Haru herself was present with me, she would be able to convince them otherwise.

... Yup, it’s best if we don’t bump into the Demon Lord.

I do want to see Sheena again and talk to her but a wise man keeps away from danger. Avoiding unnecessary talks can prevent disaster from falling on yourself. One will be eaten by a tiger if one enters a tiger’s den. I derived my conclusion as all kinds of sayings crossed my mind.

The Demon Lord probably won’t take any action that would bring attention to themselves so perhaps they have already left Port Kobe.

I guess just thinking about it is pointless.

As I was mulling over that fact, I spot a glimpse of the continent in the direction of the fishing boat ahead of us.

It gradually grew in size as time passed and the town also came clearly into view.

Since the ship in front looked like a pirate vessel, we couldn't enter the town through the harbor without permission to enter. The fishermen guided us to a secret berth instead.

"Don't tell me — it's a dock behind a waterfall?"

"Behind a waterfall? That would make the whole ship wet and it would be inconvenient."

Carol commented but having a dock at the back of a waterfall is a man's romance. A girl probably won't understand.

I thought to myself but in the end, we stopped normally at a cove alongside a cliff a little away from the town. According to Carol, this terrain would ensure that the ships won't be swept away even if a storm came by.

We released the anchor, folded the sail, lowered the small boat into the sea and went down the rope ladder.

For safety, I climbed down first but when I looked up, Carol's ... no, it's nothing.

However, that Carol, when did she buy such a color?

I was a little surprised.

## **(182) A person who wasn't supposed to be there**

After landing at the cove, we starting moving on foot.

I felt a little insecure leaving the ship there like that but well, the ship wasn't loaded with any cargo and the fishermen would remain behind to keep watch so it would probably be fine.

If I was betrayed, I'll deal with it when the time comes.

“Carol, are you all right?”

I held out my hand to Carol.

It was a slippery rocky area so it was easy to slip with the shoes we had on and even I would slip too if I wasn't careful.

“Yes, Ichino-sama — kya!”

“Carol! Uwa!”

Carol slipped on a rock and fell and dragged me along with her as she was holding onto my hand.

Then —

My head landed on Carol's skirt, to be exact, at the place where one mustn't place their head at.

“Er, erm ... Ichino-sama.”

Carol closed her eyes with an expression like she had prepared herself.

I'm begging you, please don't resolve yourself at a place like this.

“Sorry!”

I cried and got up.

“Sensei, Ma'am, would you like me to introduce you to an inn if you want to flirt around?” *(TL: They refer to him as Sensei, in this context more like martial arts/skilled Master, since it would clash with him being Haru and Carol's master, I'll leave it as Sensei.)*

“Shut up! Rather, even if you guys revere me, why do you guys call Carol Ma'am as well?”

“Ichino-sama, the fishermen recognize me as a full-fledged woman because there are many Mini-hume who ride on ships.”

“Really?”

“Yes. Mini-hume can accurately determine their position by looking at the stars and they are adept at reading the movements of clouds and wind to predict storms. Even though Carol's ability is incomplete as Carol is half human,

Carol still appears similar to the Mini-hume present in the seaside town. Carol's appearance is that of a seventeen-year-old single girl so even if Ichino-sama brings Carol into a room, that .... they won't assume that Ichino-sama has interest in young girls."

" ... We'll be sleeping in the same room but we'll just be sleeping."

I noticed that Carol's seduction was increasing by the day. I do consciously see Carol as a single female but her image does overlap with my younger sister and more importantly, I would feel guilty towards Haru.

" ... I guess it would be cowardly after all if we do so before we met up with Haru-san."

As if she read my heart, Carol said that as she stood up.

"Ichino-sama, the footing is bad after all so could you please lend me a hand?"

She extended her hand.

"Yeah, gladly."

I took Carol's hand and followed after the two fishermen in front.

Climbing up the slope along the coast, we passed through a small cave on the cliff and the town of Port Kobe was spread out beneath us.

The town built along the sea had countless small boats stopped along its coast. Among those boats, one ship seemed to have just arrived at the port. Did they just return from fishing? I could see many people there the size of sesame seeds.

"Hey, even though they can't fish for shrimps, the fishing industry is still working fine."

"Sensei, that is the trade ship from the Southern Continent. Look closely, do you see a large number of people on the ship?"

"That's true now that you mention it — "

"The trade ship also serves as a connecting ship to the Southern Continent. You will reach the Southern Continent after 7 days if you take that ship."

“Then it would take 14 days for that ship to return?”

“No no, there are factors like the tidal flow and wind direction so it would take 17 days.”

Ah, I totally forgot about the wind direction and tidal flow.

“Sensei, do you see that large cedar tree beyond the town?”

“Hn? Ah, that tree on the hill?”

It was easily noticeable as there was only a single tree atop a large grassy hill. I wondered what was it about.

“Beyond that hill lies the former pirate hideout and is where that Miryuu currently resides. Please make sure to not approach that area — I’m afraid that even Sensei would not come out unscathed if it turns into a battle.”

” ... Okay. I also don’t plan to walk into a battle.”

I, of course, did not think I would lose but that Miryuu was annihilating pirates — she was doing the right thing for the public. A necessary evil is not exactly something good so — it’s really just doing the right thing. She wasn’t an opponent I should go defeat precisely because I was going to be acting as that necessary evil soon.

“By the way, how do you guys know that Miryuu is currently staying there? Are you guys conducting reconnaissance?”

“No, it’s because Miryuu’s female underling comes to town once a day to buy stuff before returning in the direction of that hill.”

” ... If she’s going to do that then she should just stay in town ... it’s not like she’s doing anything bad. Why would she continue to stay at such an inconvenient location?”

“Beats me, we don’t know why either —”

Now that I think about it, I didn’t even know the reason why that Miryuu was annihilating the pirates.

It was pointless to think about it.

That conversation ended there and we descended to the town.

Normally, one would be charged the town entry tax when entering a town but the tax wasn't collected for some reason. There wasn't even a gatekeeper there. And I was thinking it was a chance for me to level up my Commoner job.

"It's because it is difficult to reach Port Kobe by land. Normally the town entry tax is included in the ship transport fee that you pay to enter by ship so they don't have the practice of collecting tax here."

As usual, Carol explained it to me in a simple manner.

Incidentally, trade ships also pay another round of taxes when they purchase the trade permit so like the fishermen said, there would have been a high chance that we got caught up in trouble have we entered Port Kobe's harbor without any permit. I would have gladly paid it if the fine was triple the usual tax amount though.

The town was filled with the scent of the ocean but since I was transferred to the deserted island, apart from when I was leveling up inside the underground labyrinth, I was immersed in the scent of the ocean for the whole time so it was nothing new to me.

"There are surprisingly many large buildings."

"Most of the buildings are warehouses. As this is the sole gateway to the Southern Continent. Also, most company headquarters are based here. Thanks to the taxes they pay, we fishermen only need to pay a small amount of tax so we're grateful for that."

The fisherman laughed as he commented.

As expected of the doorway to the continent.

"Can one only reach the Southern Continent through this harbor?"

"No, you can also travel via the westernmost town in this Western Continent, Yggrasib, and the northernmost town, North Leica. North Leica is also the only gateway to the Northern Continent so a lot of Northern Continent goods gather in that town's harbor."

The fisherman explained. As expected of a local, it felt like he was really knowledgeable.

That place gave the impression of an exotic atmosphere where all kinds of culture mixed together ... eh?

“Ichino-sama, is something the matter?”

I stopped as I stared at the back of the street and Carol also stopped and asked.

“I thought I saw an acquaintance but ... it was probably my imagination.”

I could no longer see their figure and it was likely to be my imagination so there was no need to chase after them.

There was no way Norn from the Vigilante Corps at Florence would be here.

## **(183) Side Story Haurvatat and Port Ithaca**

Haurvatat, from the White Wolf Race, and Malina, who was transported to the Otherworld from Japan, were travelling to Port Kobe on the clue given by the mysterious young girl Miryuu in order to reunite with their master Ichinojo.

“This is as far as I can go nya — Although I have been helped by Ichinojo like you two, I have to govern the village with my other two siblings after our King’s death so I can no longer leave whenever I want like before nya.”

Stella, the Cat Sith, persuaded but — Malina did not release her grip on Stella.

“No, I don’t want to part with Stella.”

“Malinya, please don’t be so selfish ... I only came all the way here because you two can’t cross the border alone as slaves nya ...”

“Uu, Stella-san.”

Teary eyed, Malina released her grip and stepped three steps back from Stella before she waved her hands grandly while Haurvatat waved goodbye too.

“We’ve been in your care, Stella-san. Next time, we’ll drop by together with master to say hi if we are nearby! Until then, I will try to be able to drink alcohol so —”



“Stella-saaaaaan, I’ll definitely, definitely come see you.”

The three of them said their goodbyes.

And then, the two of them relooked at the current situation.

Currently, they were in Kakensain, a country they had to pass through on the way to Port Kobe from Dakyat. They were now in the border town Kayama. From there, they will travel south to Port Ithaca and take a boat to Port Kobe. If what the Miryuu young girl said was true, they will be able to reunite with Ichinojo there.

They only had 500 sense that they were given by Stella (They actually only wanted to borrow it but slaves can’t borrow money without their master’s permission). As the item bag was with Ichinojo, they carried the money in a bag.

Malina looked back reluctantly but she took out her mask from her bosom and wore it,

“Shall we set off?”

And turned into Marina who strode ahead in good spirits.

As Fuyun and the horse carriage were inside Ichinojo’s My World, they had to travel on foot.

“By the way, Marina-san, did you travel via carriage when you were travelling with Kannon-san?”

“Umu. My sworn friend Kannon and I thread the eternal expanse of land with our own feet. Of course, with the help of a temporary collaborator, we’ve also rode on a carriage pulled by a wise beast that advanced to the future.”

” ... That’s a little hard to understand.”

“Basically, we’ve walked but we’ve also traveled via passenger carriages.”

Marina explained it in a simpler manner this time around. In other words, they travelled normally.

“I descended to this world at the Southern Continent. So I have a grasp of the place called Port Kobe.”

“That will be helpful — I came from the Northern Continent so I have passed

through this continent as well.”

The two of them were walking. Incidentally, there were passenger carriages that traveled from Kayama to Port Ithaca but Haurvatat had the stamina and felt that slaves shouldn't enjoy such luxury; whereas Marina was acting as Malina in town and she wanted to spend even a second longer with Stella so she didn't even consider the option of taking a carriage.

Marina was led to think that after they had started walking for five minutes — when she saw a carriage in the distance heading south as they walked on the pavement-less grassland.

※ ※ ※

They camped out for four days, stayed a night at a village along the way, and although no passenger carriage stopped over at that village, they paid to ride on a cart meant to transport crops to Port Ithaca for two days.

They arrived at Port Ithaca after a total of seven days.

Although Port Ithaca faced the sea, the coastal region was shallow so large-scale ships could not enter but in their stead, there were plenty of small boats docked at the harbor. They seemed to be mostly made up of fishing boats.

“Oji-san, thank you very much!”

It would have been difficult to explain their circumstances to enter the town as slaves on their own but they entered together with a middle-aged farmer who they befriended on the road so the two of them entered the town of Port Ithaca smoothly.

“Umu, I smell the scent of the sea. It's a mother's scent.”

“Eh? Marina-san's mother used a perfume that smelled like the sea?”

“No, because the sea is said to be the Mother of all life.”

“I see, what a nice way to say it.”

Haurvatat was honestly impressed while Marina looked a little awkward.

“Leaving that aside, I've once again been reminded of Ichino's existence. A journey without the Clean spell was extremely inconvenient — I'd prefer we

choose an inn with a bath.”

“We had to pay the town entry tax and we have to consider the transport fee to Port Kobe so we can’t afford that luxury.”

“I guess so — well, it just takes half a day to reach Port Kobe by boat — let’s enjoy the luxury after we reunite with Ichino on the other side.”

The two of them covered their slave collars with scarves and quickly headed to the pier for the connecting ships but —

All the connecting ships were suspended.

“The ships won’t set off — is there no other way?”

Haurvatat persistently asked the 50 year old man resting at the pier.

“Sorry, young lady. During this period, we can’t set off regardless of the circumstances due to the rules. The ships will set off a week later so come back then.”

It seemed like no ships were allowed to depart during this period to protect the fishing of some specialty shrimp that inhabit the sea.

“Can’t you work something out?”

“Even if you plead, it’s the rules — There’s the option of sailing with pirates but cute girls like you young lady will most likely end up as their plaything so — I’m sorry but please wait patiently for this week to pass.”

The man naturally didn’t know.

The strength of Haurvatat and that she could not wait a week to meet her master.

She successfully found out where the pirates’ hideout was within five minutes after that conversation.

## **(184) Arm wrestle without honor and humanity**

“Sensei, here!”

I was led to a warehouse-like building near the harbor. Rather than a fishery union headquarters, it felt more like a place for thugs to hang out. Maybe they actually really hated me and wanted to completely beat me up here and escape with my ship ... At the very least, it was a frightening building that I wouldn't have dared to enter in my previous world.

Ah, actually I did enter something similar once. If I remember correctly, during my middle school days, my classmate's girlfriend was the unrequited love of a juvenile delinquent leader from the neighbouring school (A delinquent leader at this time and age ... moreover during middle school ... that's what went on my mind at that time) so he was abducted and confined in a similar warehouse.

At that time, that classmate was abducted in front of my eyes and they threatened to break his fingers or something if I called the police so I sneaked into the warehouse because I couldn't abandon him.

Well, I remember that time ...

Right, Miri was worried because I didn't come home so she used the GPS tracking application that she secretly installed on my mobile phone to thoroughly investigate the warehouse and drove the delinquent group to destruction.

Miri was seriously almighty from that time. Even though she was only a primary school student, she was a genius who was invited by some professor to be the team leader of some omnipotent cell development team. I have no idea where she got that connection from though.

Even though Miri wasn't around this time, well, I've shown them that much strength already so I guess they won't be stupid enough to still make an enemy out of me.

When I opened the door to the warehouse-like building, I thought to myself, is this some kind of yakuza den? Men with faces that was as bad as it could come by were staring at me and Carol, as well as the former pirates.

"Oo, have you decided to stop your Pirate game, Hallock?"

Among them, an extremely rough looking enormous man about 2 meters tall smiled, showing his missing teeth.

“We didn’t stop! Danan! Ah, we did quit from being Pirates but we now have a strong helper here! With Sensei here, we might be able to snatch all the fishing spots from those Ithaca bunch.”

“Not all, it’s half, half.”

The Pirate leader man apparently called Hallock corrected the man.

“Sensei? That man? From what I can see, he looks like a kid who just grew his pubic hair. Gahahaha.”

Danan laughed loudly and I approached him.

“Ooo, he’s seriously a kid after a closer look.”

“You’re giant when I see you close up — As expected of a man who is at the Peak of Fisherman.”

As a matter of fact, when I looked at this Danan man’s level.

【Fisherman: Lv50★】

He was at counter stop for his level. He had far greater power than the other pirates.

“So, what will you be teaching us? Are you going to teach us something like words?” *(TL: They’ve been referring to him as Sensei, so it can mean mister, teacher, master etc.)*

“It’s not something I won’t teach you if you ask but — going by the flow, this is when you verify my strength right?”

I have felt the same atmosphere in the Adventurers Guild several times.

“Hah, that speeds things up. Hey, bring that over.”

It didn’t look like it would turn into a battle immediately as Danan got people to bring a large barrel over. I didn’t think that I would win if I had to drink tons of alcohol in one go.

Or so I thought but Danan placed his elbow on the barrel.

That posture —

“Arm wrestling — Arm wrestling huh.”

“Oo, that’s right. It has to be this when it comes to a match between men!”

“That saves me from the trouble. I would have had to hurt you if it was a sudden battle. A peaceful fight is right up my alley.”

“Peaceful? Let me tell you first, I have sent three people to the hospital with broken arms in the past. I cannot guarantee that you will not be the fourth person.”

“Then I’ll make the guarantee. I won’t send you to the hospital.”

I said as I placed my elbow on the barrel while Danan had round eyes and was at a loss for words for a split moment before he processed my words.

“That’s a given.”

He said as he gripped my hand.

Isn’t the palm of his hand nearly double of mine? It was such an unnatural match-up.

“I admit you have guts.”

“Thank you.”

Danan and I matched gazes before the match.

“Ichino-sama, do your best!”

While Carol was cheering me on, for some reason Hallock was the referee.

“Are you both ready?”

“Ready, fight!”

And gave the signal to start.

At the same time, I applied strength to my hand.

“Hoh, I thought that I would win in an instant but you look like you still have some leeway — how about this then!”

The man’s muscle bulged up.

Oh man, don’t tell me I never warned you.

“Can you relax a little? But I guess it’s useless to say that.”

“Hah, what the heck are you talking —”

“If you have that much force applied —”

When I applied force, the man’s arm or shoulder bent in an unnatural direction.

“Gyaaaaaaa!”

And he collapsed while holding it with his left arm.

“That’s why I told you to relax your muscles. See.”

I returned the screaming man’s arm to the correct position,

“Heal!”

And applied healing magic.

“Healing magic!?”

“That’s the first time I’ve seen it.”

“I saw it only once when my brother fell from a horse but — it didn’t work this quickly.”

“It’s not the Petite Heal of an Apprentice Practitioner, it was a Heal of a Practitioner.”

“Don’t joke around, the weak arms of a Practitioner can’t win against Danan.”

“But the fact is he used Healing Magic and defeated Danan.”

The surroundings were making noise. There really are very few people who can use Healing Magic.

“You’ll be surprised to hear more! Sensei’s physical strength is like that but he can even use Offensive Magic that is extremely powerful! With just a threat from Sensei alone, those Pirates from Ithaca will run away from fright.”

After Hallock said that, the fishermen all faced me and prostrated on the ground.

And among them, Danan who was just treated for his injury was prostrating the most. Even though the pain should still be present —

“Sensei, for testing you — no, I apologize for not believing you. Please be our

sensei and save this harbor. We will all be your faithful servants.”

That seemed to be the wishes of all the fishermen as all 30 of them looked at me and nodded.

Even though I only wanted to lend a hand, I ended up getting more than 30 subordinates.

## **(185) The oil peddling Ichinojo (will not happen)**

“Do I seriously have to wear this?”

I immediately regretted promising to act as a Pirate.

There were plenty of types of Pirate so I thought I would pass as one as long as I wore a red bandana with a horizontal striped shirt and put on a fake mustache. I even considered wearing a sleeveless red shirt with a straw hat.

“Why do I have to wear armor?”

Full body armor — naturally, it wasn’t the armor of Japanese warriors, it was Western — a Full Plate.

Just what kind of knight am I — it was a bronze armor that gave me that feeling.

“I’m sorry, Sensei. It’s a customary practice from the old days, it has become a rule for the leader of the Pirates to both wear this bronze armor when they meet.”

“A person would normally die if they put on armor in this kind of season you know?”

Even if your level goes up, the heat is still equally tough for everyone.

The ambient temperate was about 28 degrees. Why must I wear armor in this kind of heat?

“That’s right, you put on the armor and I can act as support to threaten the other party.”



I selected the former Pirate Hallock.

“No, I have already promised myself to wash my feet off the Pirating career.”

“You bring that up only when it’s convenient for you —”

I once again looked at the armor. It was still something all men yearn to try once. However, there’s a catch.

“I ask again, why armor!? If somebody falls into the ocean while wearing armor, they can’t float even if they didn’t eat the Devil’s Fruit!”

“In the past, the Pirate leaders needed to have courage, perseverance and charisma and this was decided by the Pirate who controlled this entire area. Courage — just like Sensei explained, nobody can be saved if they fall into the ocean while wearing armor. Wearing such a thing takes courage. Perseverance — The fishing ban takes place during the midsummer day every year so it takes perseverance to wear that armor during that season. And charisma — as you can see, this armor is the embodiment of men’s yearning. No man will not feel the charisma that it exudes. This armor that combines all three pillars, courage, perseverance and charisma, is the proof of a Pirate leader.”

“Even if you call them friendship, effort and victory instead ... I want to gather all three pillars together and break them.”

“Hahaha, it would become even hotter if you burn them.”

“That was bad — the temperature won’t fall even if you throw in lame jokes.”

Even though I was complaining, I did want to try putting on the armor.

Maybe I’ll try wearing it.

I got Hallock to teach me how to put it on and wore the armor.

It had a narrower field of view than expected and it was tough trying to move in it. More importantly, it stank. It was probably the remnants of the body odor of the previous guy who wore it.

“Clean!”

First and foremost, I cleaned the armor. The smell was a lot better now.

“Sensei, you can use Lifestyle Magic too?”

“Yeah, a little. Only until Lifestyle Magic III —”

“Lifestyle Magic III!? Doesn’t that mean you can even use Oil Create?”

“Yeah, I can.”

After I said that, Hallock prostrated on the ground again,

“Sensei, could you please give me a hand at night with that Oil Create?”

” ... Let me stop you there if you intend to do anything weird with the oil ...”

“Wa, please wait. Certainly, Lifestyle Magic is secretly called Sexual Life Magic but —”

” ... So it’s really called that.”

“But my request is that I wish to eat fried fish. Oil is precious and rarely obtainable after all — ”

“Fried fish huh ... I also want to eat that ... or rather, let’s eat it!”

Now that I think about it, why have I not eaten fried fish until now? Ah, I see — on the ship, we mostly ate fruits and vegetables and the occasional dried meat. Even though we tried to catch some fish, we totally failed to get any fish to bite. Incidentally, I entrusted the cooking to Pionia in My World.

If we were able to fish, I would rather enjoy the luxury of eating them fried than eating them raw as sashimi. I would want soy sauce if we were going to have sashimi but I’ll end up wanting mayonnaise too if we’re eating them fried.

“Then, Sensei, will you prepare the oil?”

“Yeah — I’ll create the highest quality of oil — bring me a barrel!”

“Right away!”

My Oil Create could hardly allow me to choose the type of oil I create.

However, there was a trick in raising the quality.

“Sensei, I have the barrel!”

“Very well, step away and watch! Boost Oil Create!”

When I released Oil Create with amplified magical power, a large volume of oil gushed out of my armored hand.

With incomparable force and speed, the magical power amplification skill produced cooking oil.

The taste will definitely be better too!

“Oo, amazing! Hey, Sensei, that’s more than enough.”

“Well, it seems like a lot more is going to come out. Hallock, bring more and more barrels!”

“Ye, yes!”

In the end, the oil production stopped after I filled 50 empty barrels with oil.

... While being impressed that they actually had 50 empty barrels, I was reflecting on having gone a little overboard.

“Ichino-sama, apart from the oil you plan to use today, you don’t mind if I sell the others right?”

Carol said with a smile after she heard about the situation and went to the trading post.

In the end, 10 thousand sense — Carol returned with 10 thousand sense.

... Just how did she negotiate until she got approximately 200 sense (about 20 thousand yen) per barrel of oil created for free?

That’s what I thought but,

“No, I was wary of the price dropping so I only sold 5 barrels. I’m glad the trader knew how to evaluate the taste.”

She said with a laugh.

... A barrel was 2000 sense (approximately 20 thousand yen) ... !?

“Sensei, won’t you strike it rich if you change job and open an oil store? If you plan to do so, please, by all means, hire us —”

“It won’t happen and I’m not hiring.”

I instantly declined.

But why is it that although I can do so much, I’m still currently jobless?

Incidentally, the fried fish that I enjoyed with everyone from the Fishermen

Union was a masterpiece and even Pionia wordlessly requested for seconds when I let her taste it.

I stored a couple in the item bag for Haru and the others.

※ ※ ※

The next morning — I rode on my own sailing ship while in armor. The sail had already been swapped with that of a Pirate ship sail without me noticing but I ignored it. It was better than directly drawing on it.

I could not manipulate the ship on my own and I didn't want to burden Carol with it so, in the end, I had Hallock and 4 others operate the ship. I wanted to complain that if there could be crew members then they could just wear this armor but it was something the leader had to wear so they rejected it.

“But, as expected — the navigation is smooth once you guys put in this much work.”

“Normally we would need even more personnel — it's a lot stranger that you sailed through the ocean with just the two of you.”

“That's true.”

The ship sailed straight to the west as we had such idle chat. It seemed like we were sailing up a river but it was apparently not a river but an inland sea.

Then, the ship stopped.

“Ahead is the aforementioned shrimp fishing ground so we don't have permission to sail our ship further. Normally we can't even come here but Sensei is a Pirate so we're not bound by the rules.”

“That's the setting — Well, the fact that Pirates are allowed to come here is also like an unspoken rule.”

After dropping the small boat down to the sea surface and leaving two people on the ship, we acted as Pirates and followed our original plan, landing on the island.

Now then, how will this unfold?

## **(186) Foe that can't be beaten even by leveling up**

We docked the boat and stepped onto land. Naturally, I still had the armor on.

The visibility was bad and the armor was noisy as it would make 『Gacha gacha』 sounds whenever I walked. Within that narrow field of view, I felt a sense of nostalgia as I spotted the figure of the rabbit that was the first thing I killed when I came to this world but it reacted to the noise coming from the armor and ran away.

“Sensei, are you alright?”

Hallock who was walking in front looked to me and asked.

“It’s not as hot as expected ... but it’s still hard to walk in — gah, almost tripped on a tree root.”

At any rate, it was difficult to walk on an unpaved road while having bad field of view.

“Please endure it a little longer, we’re almost there.”

“I heard those same words 10 minutes ago — there’s still some time before the appointed time right? Let’s rest for awhile.”

“Really? Ah, here, water.”

He passed me a jar of water with a straw in it.

“Please don’t remove your iron mask. The rule is that you can’t take off the armor once you land on the island.”

” ... What about when I need to go to the restroom?”

“Please hold it in.”

I made a difficult face as I accepted the jar of water and returned it to Hallock after drinking half of it.

“Is that enough? Water is a luxury here in this town.”

“I’ll have the rest once everything is over ...”

If by any chance I had to use the restroom, I’ll resolve it by opening a door to

My World and settling it there.

I rested for a bit as I thought about that before we started walking once again. It took another half an hour before we reached the plaza which was our destination but the pirates from Port Ithaca had yet to arrive.

“Why aren’t they here yet? Maybe they won’t show up because they heard the rumors that the pirates from Port Kobe were annihilated?”

“No, they will be regarded as having abandoned the right to monitor the fishing if they do not come today so they will definitely come.”

Hallock’s subordinate replied but I really want it to end soon — that’s when it happened.

It came.

Not the pirates — the need to urinate.

I want to use the restroom.

“Hallock, I’ll go look for the pirates there —”

I wanted to pretend to go look for them and go to the restroom.

Just as I wanted to say that.

“Oo, I don’t have a good feeling about them boss.”

“Gahahaha, that’s right — they are a gathering of pirates made up of failed fishermen after all. I, who was born to live in the sea, will kick their asses.”

A giant armored pirate spoke haughtily as he came into view but —

**【Axe Warrior: Lv31】**

He wasn’t a pirate — but an Axe-user. His level was at the range where he would be able to claim to be first class as an Adventurer though.

Well, the pirates around this parts don’t steal or kill but instead mainly manage the fishing industry so it was not unreasonable that he became a pirate.

“Very well, it’s time for the discussion but the conclusion is already set.”

Said the Axe Warrior pirate. His size was a lot clearer when viewed up close.

He was a giant man that was 2 meters tall and probably weighed about 120 kg.

That's right, the conclusion was already set. Each take half as usual. So the discussion could end there, I can let them have some wine I made in My World and we can go home.

And I really wanted to go to the restroom.

"Yeah, that's right. The fishing ground will be split into half just like every year."

"Gahahaha, you're wrong. Port Ithaca will take the entire fishing ground this year. You guys will not be touching a single rock of the fishing ground!"

Said the leader man as he looked down on me.

"Don't mess with us! We will split the fishing ground and we are already giving you concession by doing so!"

Hallock raised his arm and shook it as he provoked them with a shout.

"We're not messing around. Do you really think we don't know anything? We know that the original pirates from Port Kobe have all retired. After all, they all travelled through Port Ithaca to head inland. You guys are either the remnants or fakes masquerading as pirates right? I had no intention of negotiating with such people from the start — "

"Stop droning on and on. Hallock have already said it, we're giving you concession by letting you have half. Hurry up and go with that."

I was so focused on holding my urge to urinate that I said that with a low voice without suppressing my anger. I didn't want to shout.

"Gahahaha, you only know how to bark, aren't you shivering? Are you going to wet yourself?"

"I'm not playing around. How is your laugh always the same? Do you have some laughing bag fixed inside your stomach? Go home if you don't wish to negotiate."

"The ones going home will be you! It's about time you give up your pretend pirate act — "

The man grabbed at me.

I'm at my limit! Not anger. My bladder.

Of course, it wasn't like I was going to leak but taking into consideration the time to take off the armor, it was quite serious.

I'll have to end this now. I dived into bosom of the man who was coming at me and raised him up.

He was about 130 kg including the armor weight but that didn't matter. (TL: *That's an extremely light full plate armor weighing in at 10 kg :x*)

I spun that man above my head and threw him away.

The armor crashed into the rocks.

"My bad if that gave it a dent. You're the one who attacked first."

As I said that, I wanted to chant the same spell that I used before Hallock and his gang but,

"Sense — Boss. Please shot the magic into the sky instead of the sea."

" ... Oh yeah. Then — "

This time, without using a staff,

"Ancient Nova!"

A huge blaze flew into the sky.

The pirates from Port Ithaca were so shocked that they couldn't say a word while Hallock and the others were seeing it for the second time and they were allies this time so they had broad grins on their faces.

"That guy has probably passed out so it's impossible to have any further negotiations. Come here the same time tomorrow. Or do you want to settle this here with fists and magic?"

"""" ... We, we'll remember this!""""

And they screamed lines like that of defeated villains.

As I watched the pirates flee,

"As expected of Sensei!"



“Hallock! I’ll be returning to the ship first!”

I ran off at full speed acting like I was going to the ship but I entered My World instead.

Carol was playing card games with Pionia.

“Master, this place is not an emergency toilet.”

She said with a disgusted tone but I didn’t have a choice.

No matter how much I raise my level, physiological phenomenon can’t be beaten.

Well, I scared those Port Ithaca pirates that much so they would probably yield half of the fishing ground.

I didn’t tell them to hand over the entire fishing ground after all, only half like last year.

## **(187) The strength to face tomorrow**

That night, the fishermen and former pirates Hallock and the gang gathered and started a party in the name of celebration. It wasn’t like we had actually won but the fishermen had already given up on securing a fishing ground this year so it was no longer just about winning.

Furthermore, since it was resolved without spending the money that would otherwise be spent on paying the pirates, it was converted into paying for the alcohol for everyone to pass around.

I thought to myself that it was lucky that Haru wasn’t around. Knowing her, she would drop a bombshell remark due to the stench of alcohol at the place and faint.

Incidentally, Carol was diligently going around pouring alcohol and gathering information. She’s seriously a great girl.

I was able to weather through today without having to use the Clean spell to clear any accidents but I swore to myself to keep water intake in moderation

and use the restroom on the ship before tomorrow's negotiation.

"Nevertheless, the faces on those guys when Sensei released that magic — it was as if they had wet themselves."

My heart skipped a beat when Hallock said that with a laugh.

He wasn't talking about me. No no, I didn't leak. Yeah, I'm fine.

I slowly drank the beer that was poured for me by those around me. The beer wasn't that good but the atmosphere wasn't bad.

"By the way, Sensei, are you not accustomed to the sea despite owning a ship?"

"Hn? Yeah. I've actually only arrived at the sea not long ago."

"Then perhaps you aren't aware of this kind of dishes."

Hallock said as he brought out — a plate of raw fish with beautiful shining white flesh.

That's —

"Is that Sashimi?"

"You know about it? Yes, it's a dish introduced by the people who were transported from the other world — It's actually supposed to be eaten with a sauce called shoyu though."

"There's soy sauce too? Rather, at this rate, I'll be fine with even fish sauce."

"Sorry, I don't have it. I don't have shoyu — so I'll use ponzu."

"Ponzu sauce?"

They have ponzu sauce?

Eh? But I somewhat recall that shoyu is the base ingredient for ponzu sauce.

"No, not ponzu sauce but ponzu."

Hallock brought out a slightly pale yellow liquid.

"Can I try a bit?"

"Yes, of course."

Hallock poured some ponsu into a small saucer and passed it to me together with the plate of sashimi.

I added a pinch of that sauce on the white fish and brought it to my mouth.

“Hn — sour ... fruit juice huh.”

“Yes, it’s the juice of the citrus fruit from the southern country so it’s too sour to consume on its own but it goes well with raw fish.”

” ... I see, I remember now.”

Ponsu was the prototype seasoning for ponzu sauce.

I heard my senior in my family restaurant part-time job speak about it before. It was pointed out to me that what we normally call ponzu sauce was actually supposed to be called shoyu ponzu sauce and that it was just orange juice in the past.

I always only saw oranges as new year decorations and never knew that they were the raw ingredients for ponzu sauce.

“Well well, this somewhat resembles carpaccio, it’s delicious.”

I said with a wry smile but I kept to myself that I still missed shoyu after all.

I had no way of knowing at that time.

The blazing ball of flame that I sent into the sky — many more people saw it than just the pirates at the scene.

※ ※ ※

In the former pirate hideout near Port Kobe.

Norn who was preparing for camp looked like she was extremely restless.

During the day, Miri’s condition was weird after she saw the enormous fireball that suddenly appeared in the western sky.

After Miri, Norn and Kannon arrived at Port Ithaca, they found that the connecting ship to Port Kobe would stop after one last round trip.

After that, Miri’s choice of action was swift and Norn could not understand it.

Miri suddenly summoned Fenrir outside the town and decisively chose that

they would ride on its back and cross the mountain.

Normally it would have taken about a week to cross on foot and it was a path that only traveling monks could traverse but by relying on Fenrir's mobility, they crossed the distance in just half a day.

Then, what happened immediately after that was the annihilation of the pirates around Port Kobe.

"Immediately stop this pirate business this instant."

The pirate Miri said those words to immediately attacked her but the tentacles from Miri's Darkness Magic coiled around the pirates and splendidly tossed them into the sea while Fenrir dog-paddled and attacked the pirate vessels floating offshore.

It returned after the ships turned into wood chips.

The pirates didn't feel anger or hatred seeing their ships sent to Davy Jones' locker, they only felt fear.

They later heard that the pirates decided to stop their pirating business and took the last connecting ship to Port Ithaca.

Miri had 2 reasons for destroying the pirate ships.

The first was to prevent Miri's brother, Ichinojo, from getting attacked by pirates when he took the boat to Port Kobe.

And the other reason was to keep Haurvatat and Malina at Port Ithaca.

As mentioned earlier, it was currently impossible to take the connecting ship from Port Ithaca to Port Kobe. Travelling on land and crossing the mountains would take too much time. The only remaining method left would be to utilize the pirates to cross.

In other words, they would have to go to the island near Port Ithaca where the pirates would have their meeting and ride the ship of the pirates from Port Kobe. However, now that the Port Kobe pirates were completely annihilated, Haurvatat and Malina no longer had any options left.

Norn asked her.

Why does Miri reject the reunion between Haurvatat and Ichinojo? And if she does not want them to reunite, why did she tell Haurvatat that Ichinojo would be at Port Kobe?

Although she couldn't get an answer from Miri, she was even more nervous after hearing the report from Norn when they returned.

It seemed like there was a new pirate. That pirate was absurdly strong and was the messiah of their town.

And after seeing that huge fireball just now, Norn noticed that it was the work of that new pirate.

Tomorrow, the pirates would have another meeting.

(It's no longer a situation where only the Port Kobe pirates will be annihilated ... I shall annihilate the pirates from both Port Kobe and Port Ithaca.)

Miri deemed that it was none of her business if the fishing ground turned into a mess because of that.

The news that a new ship had reached the harbor had not reached her ears.

(I'll clean everything up before Onii arrives.)

Miri made her decision and went to bed early in preparation for tomorrow.

## **(188) The destiny to meet**

"Haurvatat, where exactly are we going?"

As fatigue began to set in her feet, Marina asked Haurvatat when she started heading east after exiting the town of Port Ithaca.

She did get to rest in the village but it was only for an hour inside a diner as Haurvatat gathered information. Originally, she thought that she would finally be able to sleep on a warm bed and while she would not be able to take a bath as the price of fresh water soared being near the sea, she thought that she would be able to at least wipe down her body with warm water. For that sake, Marina pushed her weary legs and didn't utter a word of complaint until now.

Obviously, she knew that Haurvatat was running around gathering information while she was resting and she even carried both their shares of luggage as Marina had low stamina.

Nevertheless, Marina was worried.

Whether Haurvatat's haste would invite something ill to befall them.

And her premonition was spot on.

"We're now heading to where the pirates are."

"Well then, maybe I'll go back now."

Marina was caught by Haurvatat as she turned heel to return.

"Please wait, the pirates in this town almost never attack people and there are none who have committed crimes. They only maintain security in exchange for a higher price."

"Is that so ... but you see ... my mask has the power to overlook the future, it's dangerous to proceed ahead."

"If it has the power to overlook the future then you will be all right even if we proceed."

"No, I meant to say it can predict the future –" *(TL: Overlook and predict have the same pronunciation in Japanese.)*

Marina seriously wanted to go back.

"Please have some resolve. It will be fine, we are just going to pass the pirates some money to bring us to the meeting with the Port Kobe pirates happening today and then ask those pirates to let us on their ship that will return to Port Kobe."

"Doesn't that mean we will be facing danger twice?!"

"Don't worry, if we can't settle it with words then we can just settle it with force."

"Isn't that even more dangerous?!"

"Don't worry. Marina-san knows my skill with the sword. Moreover, even when push comes to shove, I still have the support of the Great Magician

Marina-san.”

After Haurvatat said that, Marina who was eager to return suddenly gave a slight grin.

“Hahaha, exactly the case, Haurvatat. Ten or twenty pirates are no match for my great magic. You can proceed with ease of mind as you have a reliable support like me backing you – rather, we will actually be riding on a large ship.”  
*(TL: In Japanese, there is a saying ‘Riding on a large ship’ which means to gain a reliable foundation and be in a safe condition, so she’s making a pun out of it.)*

Haurvatat seemed to have pretty much gotten used to handling Marina due to the long time they have spent together.

“Nevertheless, I’m at a loss. I seem to be weak against sea breeze.”

Haurvatat muttered as she pinched her nose. Because of the sea breeze, she could hardly tell the surrounding scent.

It happened then.

“What is that?”

Towards the west, a large fireball soared into the sky.

And, just as they thought it disappeared, a huge explosion occurred.

“ ... What was that? A new type of fireworks in the Otherworld?”

“No, I’m not very sure ... but, perhaps – “

Haurvatat made a speculation.

And then, Haurvatat and Marina arrived at the pirate’s hideout –

※ ※ ※

At the same time, the interior of the Port Ithaca pirate ship was silent.

Especially the Pirate Captain who felt like he had been to this world’s hell.

Half of the fishing grounds – – at first glance, it was the same as previous years and there were no problems.

However, since they knew that the Port Kobe pirates were no more, they proclaimed to the Port Ithaca citizens.

“This time, we will secure at least 90% or even the entire fishing ground for you all! Those Port Kobe guys will have to be satisfied with catching the stray shrimps outside the fishing grounds. In exchange, pay 5 times the amount of deposit this year.”

They ended up claiming that and actually collected 5 times the deposit.

Some might say it will be fine if they return it but there's the issue of reputation and more importantly, such extra income was converted into alcohol long ago.

What will people say about them if they could only secure half the fishing ground?

However, even though the Captain didn't personally see the fearfulness of the Port Kobe pirate as he was unconscious, that person was terrifying.

If they defied him, there would be a possibility that he would snatch the entire fishing ground the next time.

What should he do?

The Captain still could not reach a conclusion and he wanted to ponder more once they returned to their hideout ...

He assumed that he would figure out a plan with a good meal and alcohol — — in other words, he was escaping from reality using alcohol.

The pirate's hideout was just a row of small huts on stilts in the bay.

However, there was a spring with high-quality water there and more importantly, the place was facing the sea.

It was paradise to the pirates.

As soon as the ship arrived, the subordinates the Captain left at the hideout immediately ran out.

But they did not know how the talks went today.

And he did not feel like telling them about it while being sober.

“I'll talk to you guys later. Prepare the alcohol first!”

“It's not that, Captain! There are guests who wish to see you.”



“Now is not the time for that! Tell them to leave!”

“I said that too but she’s an absurdly strong girl who suppressed 20 armed men with her bare hands without any injuries.”

“What ... ?”

At that instant, the man was struck by a devilish bolt of inspiration. Or that was what he thought but anybody could have thought of that plan.

“I’ll go there now. Show me the way.”

“Yes!”

The captain was led to the usual canteen.

Waiting for him there were a White Wolf race female Swordsman and a female Magician with a strange mask on. Furthermore, the two of them appeared to be slaves.

“Oi, who’s the strong one?”

The lackey replied the Captain in a voice soft enough that the two of them would not hear it.

“The White Wolf race.”

“I see.”

The man gave a brave smile and stood in front of the two waiting girls.

“Thank you for waiting. *I* am this pirate gang’s captain. You can call me captain or boss. I don’t like to be called by my name so I won’t give you my name.”

“Understood, Captain-san. I am Haurvatat, a traveling Swordsman.”

“I am the Great Magician Marina. Remember it well.”

“I see. So, what can *I* do for you?”

“Actually, following our master’s orders, we wish to travel to Port Kobe. Could you please let us ride your ship?”

The Captain thought so after he heard her story.

People who look for them at this season would mostly be those who wish to

utilize the pirates to ferry them. Normally he would gladly accept their request in exchange for money but – –

“Sorry, but I can’t do that. This year, a troublesome man has joined the Port Kobe pirates. Originally, the agreement was we get 80% and they get 20% of the fishing grounds but he actually pushed for it to be half-half. If we do that, the country’s Shijimon Shrimp distribution would be interrupted. That bastard actually plans to do the unthinkable by exporting the shrimps for money. That’s what happened during the negotiations today. The negotiation will happen tomorrow too but there’s no guarantee that the fellow pirates on that side will ferry you. Sorry, but you will have to leave.”

“We’ll do something about it there — please ferry us to the negotiation island. We’ll negotiate with the Port Kobe pirates there. We will pay if it is money you want.”

” ... There’s only one way. In a situation where we pirates can’t come to conclusion, we can settle it by two other methods. An all-out fight between all pirates. Or a one-on-one fight between Captains. The side that loses that match will have to accept whatever conditions the other party put out so it is a double-edged sword to us pirates. Of course, the conditions will be stated before the match.”

The Captain laughed.

“Will you consider participating in the one-on-one fight as the Captain. Of course, there will be risks but you won’t lose with your skills. Even if you lose, nobody will complain. Once you win the match, you can just ask the opposing pirates to let you ride their ship. The opponent has absolute confidence in his strength so he will definitely agree to the match.”

” ... Was everything that you said true?”

“Of course.”

Haurvatat agonized for a little before she sent an eye signal to Marina and nodded.

“All right. I will participate in the one-on-one fight.”

“Ooo, I see. Tonight will be celebratory drinks if you’ve made up your minds!

You bastards, bring the alcohol this instant!”

“I don’t drink. Though I would like a bed.”

“I see, all right. You can use our dormitory. Oi, somebody! Show these masters to the dormitory!”

Thus Haurvatat and Marina would be attending the next day’s talks.

※ ※ ※

Meanwhile.

“Jofre, what is this work you talk about?”

Julio and party were riding on a pull cart pulled by Centaur.

As they had started traveling in a party of 5, they procured it in the Cat Sith village.

Even though the weight could easily surpass 300kg with 5 people on it, that was like an empty cart before the force of Centaur.

“Crew member, crew! We’ll be riding a ship! We’re going to the Southern Continent. I plan to have an acquaintance at Port Ithaca let us ride on his boat.”

“But in this season, there are no connecting boats due to the Shijimon fishing.”

Sutchino heard people mutter that just now when he was counting his earnings from the golden fleece he sold at the border town.

His intuition told him that he would somehow earn gold if he followed Jofre and the others but he thought to himself that maybe he was wrong.

“Don’t worry. There are still ships sailing during this season. I’ve contacted them with this just now.”

Jofre took out the bracelet called the Friendship Ring once used by Ichinojo to form a formed party.

“Establishing contact through the bracelet, is it similar to Milky’s talisman?”

Milky’s job, Magic Journalist, can create a talisman capable of allowing conversations between people separated by a long distance. However, it was

disposable.

“It’s something similar. But it apparently loses its ability once it is beyond a 1000km.”

Elize said.

“Heh, that’s quite convenient. I wonder how much would it sell for?”

Sutchino started counting his chickens before they hatched.

“So, who is that other party?”

“Oh, his name is — ”

The instant Jofre announced his name,

Milky raised a strange noise and collapsed.

She had a face full of smiles while surprisingly not having a nosebleed.

But it was not unexpected for her.

Because that was the name of a great senior Doujinshi writer who Milky really admired, Big Second.

Because that man once defeated the Demon Lord together with the hero, his real name, Daijiro.

## **(189) You're amazing, Pionia**

The day after the negotiations.

The talks would be carried out at the same place at 3 in the afternoon so we planned to go to the cove where our ship was anchored at when it was noon. Before that, I entered My World while carrying something I purchased.

When I entered My World, Pionia came riding on a horse with a pure white coat of hair — Fuyun, and she respectfully bowed her head as she welcomed me. It seemed like that temperamental Fuyun had opened his mind to Pionia after spending most of his time with her in My World. He has never allowed anyone apart from Haru to ride on his back after all.

“Master, welcome back.”

“I’m back ... this ... this wasn’t here yesterday.”

“Yes, that’s because it was inside the shipbuilding hut until yesterday. I finished it this morning and carried it here. Does it suit your liking?”

” ... Er, I do find it amazing.”

Standing there was an enormous sailing ship about 5 times the size of the one we were sailing with at the moment.

“But I think we won’t have any more chances to sail on a ship?”

“I see — then let’s create an ocean in this world. If I can procure 30 million MP from Master, I can create an ocean.”

“To create an ocean for such a reason — ah, that’s right, I brought the item we talked about.”

I passed a bucket with the item inside to Pionia.

They were small light brown semi-transparent spherical fish eggs. Such fertilized eggs could easily be obtained just by scooping with a net at the shallows near the estuary. I recalled that Malina once said that she wanted to make a fish reserve here so I discussed it with Pionia and Carol. I went to harvest fish eggs at the estuary via the information I got from Carol.

Pionia took the bucket and fixedly stared into it.

“How is it? They’re quite good right?”

“Yes — ”

Pionia nodded and transformed her hand. Her fingers turned slender just like tweezers as she threw egg after egg onto the ground and stepped on them.

“Pionia! What are you doing!?”

“I discovered harmful parasites within those eggs. It is a type of parasite that plants itself within fish eggs so these eggs won’t hatch. After these fish eggs get eaten by shellfish, the parasites will turn into an adult within the shellfish. If humans consume those shellfish, it would rarely cause death but will cause symptoms such as 3 days and nights of high fever as well as 3 weeks of diarrhea.”

“Pa, parasites — sorry, I didn’t think until that far.”

It is said that freshwater fishes have a lot more parasites in them compared to saltwater fishes.

But I didn’t expect that there would be parasites even within the eggs.

“I exist for that sake so there are no problems. Master, the remaining eggs are all okay.”

When Pionia returned the bucket to me, the eggs had decreased by 30% and the fish egg crushed by Pionia’s feet left a muddy color on the ground.

“Would it be fine if I just place them in the fish tank with water plants we made previously?”

“Yes, but the water temperature would need to be adjusted too so I will do it.”

“Okay, please do then.”

I once again handed the bucket to Pionia.

“With this, maybe we will be able to eat grilled fish or something similar. Sashimi from freshwater fish might be a little impossible though.”

“No, because the parasites have been removed, it is possible to make the

sashimi Master spoke about — we can also make soy sauce if you want to.”

“You can make soy sauce!?”

“Yes, it is possible. Knowledge regarding soy sauce has been passed down by the transported people since hundreds of years ago. However, the soy sauce culture did not spread and it gradually declined. Now, although part of the name remains, the method to create it has been lost but we have soybeans thanks to Master Carol and as for the Aspergillus mold — Master, could you please take out a piece of bread from your item bag?”

“Hn? Okay — ”

I took out a piece of hard bread as I was told. I bought it as part of the portable rations but I still have it because it was way too tough.

“Are you going to grow Aspergillus using this?”

“No, to be exact, Aspergillus already exist in it. However, in this state, it will not be an Aspergillus that is appropriate for the creation of soy sauce so I will mutate it and create a fungus similar to Aspergillus sojae —I estimate that I will be able to create soy sauce in roughly 3 months.”

“It will take 3 months!? Actually, taking into account mutating the fungus and fermenting the soybeans, 3 months would, in fact, be record-breaking speed.”

She claimed to be able to create soy sauce in 3 months with the Aspergillus sojae in their original form after all.

“Then, I’ll leave it to you.”

“Yes, understood.”

“Now then, what should I do —. Should I make fish sauce to go with the sashimi?”

It would probably go well with the sashimi.

Maybe I should just make it since we’re going to make sashimi.

“Master, I do not recommend fish sauce to go with sashimi. Fish sauce has a fishy taste so if you wish to eat it together with fishy raw fish, we will have to prepare a triangular sink tidy.” *(TL: I don’t know how to sink tidy fits into the*

*sentence but going by the later sentence, they probably use it to strain the ginger and wasabi?)*

“Guh, I’m glad I asked.”

I questioned why Pionia knew about the existence of triangular sink tidies but without wasabi or ginger, it is impossible to eat food that is extra fishy.

“Then, I’ll be leaving now. Ah, that’s right. Do you know about Shijimon shrimps?”

“Yes, they are miraculous shrimps that are the specialty of the southern parts of the West Continent. I have heard that they are extremely delicious shrimps with fleshy bodies that can be grilled, boiled or even fried. What about them?”

“I was wondering if we could farm them here if I got my hands on their eggs.”

“The Shijimon shrimps inhabit the deep sea except for when they spawn and we will also need to prepare seawater so I will have to obtain about 1000MP from Master.”

“Only 1000MP!?”

After all, if I set all my jobs to pure elemental magic jobs at their highest levels, my maximum MP can easily go pass 1000.

I see, so it’s possible.

Well, farming and selling them would probably negatively impact Port Kobe and Port Ithaca but it should be fine if I only do it for our personal consumption — as long as it suits our taste.

“For now, take about 1000MP. But I can’t guarantee that I will be able to obtain the shrimp eggs.”

I changed my jobs to magic-based jobs and took off my upper shirt before facing my back to Pionia.

“Are you sure? I heard that you will be having an important discussion after this.”

“Don’t worry, there won’t be anyone who would dare to attack after they’ve seen what I did yesterday. Even if there is, I’ll make do with using a sword.”



“Understood — Okay then — ”

Pionia gently rubbed my back as she absorbed my MP through the sweat pores on my back. That sensation of weakness and massage-like hand movements felt very good but I would probably not be able to stand if she overdid it and caused me to run out of magical power.

Then, 10 minutes later.

Just as the stiffness of my back was relieved,

“Master, I confirm the acquisition of 1000MP.”

I saw Pionia lick her lips with her tongue as she said that when I looked back.

“Is there any meaning in licking your lips if you didn’t eat with your mouth?”

“It suits the situation.”

Pionia replied instantly.

She really acts just like a human at times like these. She might even be better at joking around than Haru. Actually, Sheena also gave off a similar vibe.

“Now then, it’s about time I leave.”

I staggered a little when I stood up too quickly.

“Master, are you all right?”

“Sorry, sorry, it’s just a little bit of light-headedness. It won’t affect my movements and it’ll go away soon.”

I said as I waved goodbye with a smile and passed through the door to return to the fishing inn operated by the Fishing Union.

As soon as I returned to the room,

“Ichino-sama. Hallock-san has been wanting to see you and is waiting at the neighboring room.”

“Is that so? Okay — do we still have time?”

“Yes, he seemed to have something urgent.”

Urgent matters?

I wonder what it is?

I left my room and knocked on the neighboring door.

“Sensei, sorry to bother you when you’re busy.”

“No, it’s all right, what is it?”

“We’ve received a courier seagull from my people from Port Ithaca.”

Carrier seagull? Maybe it’s similar to carrier pigeons.

I was really curious but it wasn’t the time to find out so I let it slide.

“Actually, those Port Ithaca pirates seemed to have hired an amazing mercenary and might suggest a one-versus-one match.”

“Mercenary? That’s allowed?”

“Normally I would warn them against doing that but well, we’re also ...”

True, they were also doing the same thing.

“Well, I don’t think I’ll lose to a mercenary.”

“Please don’t let your guard down, according to the report, that mercenary only had the support of one companion but that person single-handedly took on dozens of pirates and took control of the pirate hideout without suffering any injuries.”

” ... That’s amazing.”

Maybe I really won’t be able to drop my guard

Shit, if this was going to happen then I shouldn’t have given my MP to Pionia. However, if I switched my magician jobs to swordsman-type jobs, my MP would also fall accordingly and there’s a high chance that I would genuinely fall into magical power depletion. In other words, I would have to fight in this condition huh.

“Well, I’ll probably be fine.”

I took it easy and replied.

When needed, I can just use my trump card.

## (190) Future prospects

Naturally, the enormous sailing ship Pionia constructed could not be used in the shallow inland sea so we sailed on the same ship and headed to the mountainous land between Port Kobe and Port Ithaca.

I left all the steering to Hallock so Carol and I were enjoying the scenery from the deck but the aroma of the sea was stronger compared to yesterday so I inadvertently smiled wryly.

“What’s wrong? Ichino-sama.”

She probably found it strange why I suddenly smiled. Carol asked as she peered at my face.

I replied “It’s nothing serious but, ” as a preface,

“I was wondering how it would be like for a person with sensitive nose if the smell of the sea is this bad.”

“Were you thinking of Haru-san?”

“Well, to be frank ...”

I felt that it was a little rude to say that I was thinking of another girl when I was beside a girl who said that she liked me so I gave a vague answer but I guess she noticed after all. Won’t it make her feel bad? I thought to myself but it didn’t seem to have fazed Carol much as she answered my question.

“I’ve heard about it from beastmen that those who live along the coast all year round do find the smell of the sea hard to bear but it doesn’t really affect their ability to smell. But it would apparently take a couple of days to weeks for a beastmen to get used to it. Haru-san who has lived her life inland would probably find it uncomfortable in various ways.”

“I see. Then she might struggle when we sail to the Southern Continent.”

This time, Carol and I smiled normally instead of smiling wryly.

“Sensei, it’s about time you put on the armor.”

“Okay — , I get it.”

It's okay, I've already gone to the restroom just now before boarding the ship and although the scent of the sea was tough, the humidity and temperature were lower compared to yesterday so I won't need that much hydration.

Furthermore, even with the armor on, I have pretty much gotten used to moving in it.

I put on the armor, checked my steel sword, and sheathed it before I turned to one side and unsheathed it once again, holding it vertically.

"Sensei, what are you doing?"

Hallock who was steering and could see me standing at the bow asked me in puzzlement.

"Ah, I was just feeling nostalgic as it has been a long time since I fought seriously with a sword."

"Ahaha, so you didn't have to fight seriously with that guy yesterday. Ah, so Sensei specializes in magic huh? Then why do you choose to fight with a sword today?"

"Since the opponent would more likely concede defeat if I defeated them in their own field?"

"I see, as expected of Sensei."

... It seemed like Hallock couldn't decide on what tone to use. He was trying very hard to speak in an underling tone but to be honest, his normal manner of speech breaks the tone and forms a gap between them.

The truth was that I chose to fight with a sword because I could not depend on my MP and I thought that it would look cool to draw my sword at the bow of the ship but Hallock grabbed on to my lies favorably.

He was unconscious the previous time I showed off my magic but he personally experienced my skill with the sword so I guess he didn't doubt my ability to fight with one.

"By the way, where would Sensei be heading to after you meet up with your companions?"

"I was thinking of going to the Southern Continent. I want to meet someone

there.”

“Don’t tell me it’s a lover? Even though you already have such a cute half-mini hime with you, Sensei sure is loved.”

“You’re wrong, it’s a guy. He’s a benefactor to me and my companion and another companion of mine want to meet him too.”

“I see. Please leave the arrangements for the trip to the Southern Continent to me. It will take a couple of weeks to negotiate for the permit to dock at the Southern Continent harbor so if you’re in a hurry, I can ask an acquaintance who runs a trade ship to prepare his VIP room for you.”

“We’ve been in Sensei’s care after all — incidentally, if you plan to travel on a trade ship, what would you do with this ship —”

Ah ... so that was his intention.

“I get it — let me see, if you can make the preparations for the trade ship and fulfill some of my requests, I will ask my companion who made the ship if she is willing to hand it over.”

“Oo, Sensei you’re so generous — by the way, what are the requests?”

“The eggs of river fish like previously, various seeds of fruits and vegetables, fertilized eggs of domestic animals like chickens and also a lot of interesting books.”

That would probably convince Pionia.

Constructing and eating seems to be her only interests so I wanted to increase her cooking repertoire.

“Leave it to me if that’s all you need. I’ll ask my acquaintances to gather them ... er, what if I gathered them but your companion doesn’t agree to hand over the boat ...”

“If my companion refuses then I will pay with gold so don’t worry —”

“Then I can gather them with ease of mind.”

The conversation was pretty much settled but our plans after this huh ...

I do need to think of what we plan to do after we go to Daijiro-san’s place.

Haru would probably want to continue adventuring with me. She loves fighting and dried meat after all.

Carol is a peddler but she has already accumulated quite a sum of money so she would probably get her own shop.

Malina actually wants to return to Japan so she would probably assist Daijirosan.

As for myself — that's right, even though my job is listed as Jobless in the system, I want to get some kind of a job as a title. What about a Journeying Alchemist? No no, maybe I'll train my smithing skills and be a Journeying Swordsmith, that might be cool.

If Carol buys a shop, I can also continue adventuring with that town as my home base and if Carol buys a shop in Mallegory, we can continue our usual four-man journey accompanied by silly talks.

Mallegory is roughly about 1 week away via carriage from the harbor town in the Western Continent country of Tsuaobal.

It feels like a long journey but it's actually only a short duration left.

"Sensei, I have stopped the ship and prepared the barge."

The boat was stopped about 6 meters away.

I confirmed that the ship had stopped and jumped onto land.

The crew cheered as they saw me easily jump onto land in excitement.

Great, let's get this discussion over and done with.

## **(191) Silver Armoured strong foe**

I walked on the same path as yesterday in the same armor.

Just as we were about to reach our destination, I suddenly felt it.

"It seems like today the other party reached here first."

"Sensei, you can tell?"

Hallock asked with eyes like he was staring at a reliable partner.

“Well, yeah. I have the Presence Detection skill after all.”

My Hunter job has a skill called Presence Detection II.

Although Presence Detection could only sense the presence of monsters or humans, Presence Detection II could roughly tell me the strength of the other party.

There was a large presence in front of a small one.

I guessed that I won't be able to handle the opponent in a straightforward manner.

It was the correct choice to have Carol enter My World.

If the opponent was some unruly man, it would have been horrible if he used Carol as a hostage. To be safe, I searched for the presence of an ambush but it seemed like I didn't have to worry about that. I could only sense the presence of small animals.

“Now then, let's focus ourselves.”

I touched my belt a little to verify the position of my sword and walked ahead.

“Yes, Sensei. I will do the negotiations so Sensei can just listen.”

“Is that so? Then I'll leave it to you — half the fishing ground okay. Don't get greedy.”

“He ... yes.”

That was a late reply. Perhaps he wanted to secure a larger fishing ground by provoking the other party.

It was the right choice to nail it in.

We walked a little more and arrived at the same discussion place as yesterday.

The person wearing the armor was clearly slender — in other words, I could easily recognize that it was a different person.

It looked like they didn't intend to hide it. The color of the armor the large

man wore yesterday was gold but today the armor the man was wearing was silver in color.

Incidentally, the large man who wore the golden armor yesterday,

“We’ve been waiting, Port Kobe’s greenhorn pirate gang.”

Laughed as he ridiculed us.

“Says the incompetent Port Ithaca pirate gang. You guys actually dared to ask for help because you fear my captain! That’s clearly a different person compared to yesterday!”

“It’s not a helper, this is our real captain. Yesterday we didn’t think that you guys would come so I came out as a proxy — there’s no agreement that the captain himself must be the one who conducts the negotiation right? Seven years ago, the Port Kobe pirate captain gave some lame excuse for having a hangover and had a proxy standin after all right?”

“Guh.”

He did kind of make sense. Or rather, don’t stand people up for an important negotiation like this just because of a hangover.

Nevertheless, the other party’s helper captain — Silver Armor had not said a word. Maybe he was concentrating since he hasn’t spoken at all.

I looked at that man and he also glared at me.

It looked like he was all fired up.

The glaring contest continued before,

“Captain, the talk is done. It will be a one-on-one duel against the other party’s captain there. If we win, they will hand over half of the fishing ground for 10 years. If we lose, they will snatch 90% of the fishing ground.”

“I see —”

I muttered and nodded.

Hallock was quite skilled to negotiate the splitting of the fishing ground not only for this year but for a ten year period.

With this, even if they didn’t have pirates next year, they would still have a



share of the fishing ground.

“Also, Sensei — it’s a suggestion from the other party, they requested to use the same weapon — please use this Bronze Sword.”

“Bronze Sword?”

Judging from the design of the sheath, the opponent was truly holding the same weapon.

“The opponent said that if it was to be a duel, the conditions should be the same — Sensei don’t have any issue with it right?”

“Yeah. A good workman does not blame his tools, I’ll grab victory even if I have to fight with my fists.”

Actually, I was nervous thinking that my opponent would be using a superior weapon compared to mine. Even after using Metal Appraisal on the Bronze Sword, the result was Bronze Sword so it didn’t seem like there would be an issue.

(Equal conditions huh — it seems like the opponent believes in fairness.)

I wanted to have a match where I shake hands with the silver armor guy after everything is over.

I drew the sword from its sheath and dropped the sheath onto the ground as I stepped forward. If my opponent was Sasaki Kojiro, I would probably have already been torn asunder.

Unfortunately, I was the one who was late to the fight instead. *(TL: See wiki for the duel between Sasaki Kojiro and Miyamoto Musashi.)*

The large man stood between me and Silver Armor and asked with a smile.

“Are you ready?”

Silver Armor drew his sword. It was a great stance with no openings.

I also prepared my sword.

“Let the match begin!”

He announced but neither of us moved. Then, Silver Armor and I slowly closed the distance between us and it happened the moment our swords touched.

Silver Armor's sword moved in a blur and cleaved at my torso. However, I leaped high up and swung my sword down with the intent to use Slash but,

"Geh!"

The blade of my sword cleanly came off. Impossible! Could it be possible that the sword fasteners fell off!?

Even though it seemed fine just now — was there a trick built into it that would cause it to come loose once a certain amount of time passes?

"What did you do! That's cowardly!"

Hallock burst out but the large man replied.

"It's your fault for not checking! Now is the time, get him!"

He instructed Silver Armor. But — Silver armor didn't follow his orders.

Then, he tossed his sword to me.

Does he want me to use this sword?

It looked like Silver Armor was not aware of the trick done on the sword.

He was probably a handsome man like Suzuki who would make girls go crazy over him — but, I'm glad that's the case this time.

I drew the Bronze Sword and the opponent also pulled his own two sword-like swords.

" ... !"

Seeing those two swords, I checked my opponent's job and increasingly realized my own idiocy. Well, now the other party will probably feel the same, or I guess even more so. If possible, I would like it if she doesn't end up hating herself but — I drew the sword and dashed forward.

"Receive this attack squarely with those two swords!"

Following my *order*, Silver Armor blocked my direct frontal attack with the two swords. Then, she seemed to have noticed as she asked with a soft voice.

" ... Master ... ?"

"Yeah, I missed you — Haru."

But, why is Haru at a place like this?

Haru was probably wondering the same thing too.

## **(192) The abrupt end to the charade**

Haru and I still could not hide our surprise at finally reuniting after missing each other after so long. Our swords were trembling. Thanks to that, it might have seemed to the surrounding audience that a competition of strength was going on.

(Haru, why are you here?)

(We were planning to make the pirates there let us ride their ship after this match was over.)

I see, I did consider the possibility that Haru would have reached Port Ithaca but Haru was not the type to wait until the fishing season ends. I failed to consider the possibility that she would try to somehow get to Port Kobe.

(Master too, why are you aiding the pirates?)

(They aren't pirates, just regular fishermen. Normally, the fishing ground would be split equally like every year but this year the Port Kobe pirates voluntarily retired and so I posed as a pirate for this negotiation.)

(So that was why — it seems like I have been lied to ... Although I had already stopped trusting those people who played such petty tricks during a sacred battle like this.)

It looked like Haru didn't look upon their act of tampering with my sword kindly.

(By the way, where is Malina?)

(Malina is on the pirate ship.)

She's on the pirate ship huh ... that means we can't tell what the pirates might do if Haru loses. If that's the case — I feel a little guilty but,

(Haru, let's continue this charade for a little longer)

( — Understood. Although Master calls it a charade, I shall fight to the best of my ability as I have the chance to practice with Master who is stronger than me. After this is over, I will apologize in whatever manner necessary for the disloyalty of pointing my sword at Master.)

No, she's going to fight seriously?

I wasn't looking for some battle junkie spirit. Neither was I looking for her apology for her disloyalty.

I don't want her to do something like splitting her stomach okay? (TL: Harakiri)

I leaped backward and grandly drew my sword up,

"Slash!"

And swung my sword down, releasing a vacuum wave like in a swashbuckler film. Haru leaned slightly to her right. Naturally, with Haru's dynamic visual acuity as well as her agility, regardless of the armor she had on, she effortlessly dodged the slash. Although the slash was aimed at a position that would not hit her anyway.

And that vacuum wave bore into the surface of the earth and plunged into the ranks of the opposing pirates. Three of the pirates were blown away.

"Bastard, where are you aiming at!"

The pirates yelled.

"Your captain evaded it himself, it wasn't my fault!"

I shouted back. Behind me, Hallock was laughing but jeez, at this rate, the opposing pirates will all be decimated.

Maybe we should just ignore this match and directly beat them up.

Just as I was thinking that, flames covered the blade of Haru's dagger, the Flame Dragon's Tooth. Immediately after that, those flames were shot from the dagger.

"Oop —"

It was a little shocking even though it was shot at an avoidable position — just as that thought passed through my mind, Haru rapidly approached me and released a roundhouse kick.

(I see!)

I acted as if I was blown away and leaped to my side on my own. At that spot was naturally the belly of the enemy pirate's former captain. In other words, I just did a body blow.

"Oo, thanks for the great cushioning!"

While I said that, I added in an elbow strike on the former pirate captain who had fallen on his back. The pirate captain collapsed with foam around his mouth.

"Help me look after him."

I said as I stood up and readied my sword.

"Now this is getting interesting."

It was seriously interesting. Despite having been apart for so long, I could grasp what Haru was about to do and what she wants to do.

Similarly, for Haru, she knew what I wanted to do and matched her movements to mine.

Our dance-like movements were as if we were in a swordfight period drama and before we knew it, Hallock and the others were watching us silently. And we made all the enemy pirates faint silently.

"It seems like they've all been annihilated without us noticing."

"Yeah — then —"

It happened when Haru was about to lose on purpose.

" — — !!"

What's this sensation?

It was chilly all of the sudden. The Presence Detection skill activated on its own and it told me that I was going to be attacked by that monster.

Haru was the same, she trembled as she looked at the southern sky.

I could tell even from a distance. I could tell even without confronting it.

That unmasked killing intent — it was probably a strong foe at the same level of the Leviathan.

(It can't be — the Demon Lord!?)

Haru heard my involuntary muttering and looked at me.

(What about Demon Lord-sama?)

(I was planning to tell Haru later but it seems like the Demon Lord has revived and is near Port Kobe.)

(Demon Lord-sama ... has revived?)

Although Haru could not hide her shock, I actually hoped that this presence belonged to the Demon Lord. As long as Haru was there, it would probably not turn into a fight.

But it was still uncertain.

I turned to Hallock and yelled.

"Hallock! You guys should evacuate with the ship! Something dangerous is coming!"

"Dangerous person ... Don't tell me it's that person who destroyed the pirates —"

"It might or might not be. I'm not sure but just evacuate for now!"

"O, okay!"

Hallock replied and ran in the direction of the ship.

Like this, they won't find out that Haru and the Demon Lord are acquainted.

I thought so but —

" — !"

The presence changed direction. That direction is —

I looked eastward where Hallock ran off to and cursed my own stupidity.

If the opponent moves to crush pirates, there's a possibility that they will aim for the escaping Hallock and others and it was what actually happened.

A huge explosion of darkness happened to the east and that aura became a gust of darkness that threatened to blow us off our feet.

I covered my face with both my hands to resist it and thought to rush to Hallock's aid but it looked like the fight was already over.

The presence slowly came towards our direction.

"Haru, I'll let you know first, I have pretty much used up all my magical power and I can't even switch from my magic-class jobs to Swordsman job — I'm at about 50% of my capabilities."

" — That was your 50% huh — I have personally experienced Master's amazing strength."

"Please leave the flattery to after everything is over — if the opponent is the Demon Lord that Haru is acquainted with, name yourself immediately — if not, we'll look for an opening to escape to where Malina is."

If we escaped to My World, Malina who was still on the pirate ship would be in danger.

However, if we moved to the pirate ship where Malina was now, the Demon Lord would probably chase us and it would turn into a fight before we could talk.

Now, we could only wait.

Then, I slowly heard the footsteps of the owner of that presence and they appeared.

Strangely, the opponent was also wearing armor just like us.

I had a golden armor, Haru had a silver armor and the opponent had a bronze armor.

However, unlike an Olympic competition, I could tell from their presence that their strength was not directly proportional to the material of the armor.

"Haru — is that?"

“No, Demon Lord-sama is not that small.”

” ... I guessed so.”

That figure reminded me of the height of the mysterious girl that I heard of from Hallock and the others. A considerable scent of danger was coming from the opponent of about Carol and Miri’s height wearing bronze armor.

I was certain that was the pirate-crushing girl feared as a Demon Lord by Hallock and the others.

If I remember correctly, her name was —

## **(193) Battle with the Demon Lord**

Turning time back a little, Miri and the others were preparing for tomorrow’s departure.

She found out that the pirates would be having talks today and will have the same talks tomorrow as well so she planned to crush those pirates.

” ... Kanon, what are you doing?”

Miri looked at Kanon’s hands with a gaze as if she was looking at something trifling.

She looked at the hammer held in the girl’s hands and looked at the bronze armor.

“I am matching the armor to Miryuu-chan’s size.”

Kanon replied with a grin.

In that former pirate hideout, a number of armor sets were left behind.

Because there was a tradition whereby the captain would wear armor to have the talks between pirates.

“Why are you matching it to my size? I don’t plan to wear something like that.”



“I’ll be in trouble if Miryuu-chan doesn’t wear it.”

It was Norn who said that.

She had quite a weary expression. It was the fatigue from moving between Port Kobe and the pirate hideout multiple times to purchase food. Because of that, she was the most familiar with the inner workings of the town.

“Why!”

Miri complained to Norn.

“Miryuu-chan is quite a celebrity in the town of Port Kobe! You’re being called a Demon Lord and your name is being circulated widely. Moreover, they even have information on your appearance in quite considerable detail! If you act violently with your face visible, you will really not be able to walk into town without hiding your face.”

“What, I’m not bothered by something like that. It’s not like I’m doing anything bad.”

“Are you sure? If you draw that much attention to yourself by going on a rampage, you won’t be able to stroll together with your Onii-san you know?”

“Uu, I don’t want that to happen.”

Miri faltered after Norn said that.

“Now that I think about it, I have not been to the sea with Onii for many years with just the two of us. Onii has always been working part-time after all — right, did I bring my swimming suit? More importantly, are there even beaches at Port Kobe? Watermelons exist here so I would love to split watermelons together with Onii.”

Miri grinned to herself as she imagined the time when she reunites with Ichinojo.

“It won’t be just the two of you though, Norn and I are here too.”

As she adjusted the size of the armor, Kanon caressed it lovingly and looked at Miri.

“You’re really dextrous with your hands, Kanon-san.”

“Ah well, I’m a self-proclaimed blacksmith after all so I can at least do this much♪”

She twirled her hammer in good mood.

“By the way, should I add a function to change your voice?”

“You can do something like that?”

“Of course, Norn. I am a Magic Sword Craftsman after all. My hands are itching after such a long time — hmm but if I add the voice changing function, the sounds you hear would be distorted too ... Miryuu-chan, you don’t mind right — ?”

“But going to a swimming beach might not be good for Onii’s education. It will be bad if he gets excited after seeing other girls in swimsuits ... Maybe it will be better if we just reminisce about the past at some seaside town cafe. As a younger sister — yup, that should be the correct choice as a younger sister right?”

“She’s not listening huh ... well, I’ll just tinker however I like and get her approval after I’m done.”

Kanon took out a magic stone and created an indentation as well as clasps to embed the magic stone.

“Ah, but before that, we should take a commemorative photo. I brought my camera too — the developer fluid and fixer fluid, yup, I’m sure I brought those too. I can just make the darkroom using magic — I can move about normally in a darkroom too with my current body.”

Thus, Miri’s delusions continued, Kanon continued her work and Norn started to prepare food.

Then came the next morning.

“Hey, Norn. The armor size is just right but my voice is strangely muffled?”

“I told Miryuu-chan yesterday. That I would be attaching a voice changing function.”

“Kanon’s voice sounds weird too.”

“That’s the downside of having the voice changing function. Because to change your voice, I attached a function to alter sound quality on the surface of the armor ... ”

“And so why are you laughing?”

Miri glared at Norn and Kanon.

Norn was doubled over desperately trying to resist from laughing while Kanon was grinning widely.

“What does my voice sound like?”

Kanon and Norn couldn’t answer her.

※ ※ ※

“Pwepware yourshelves! Pywates!”

The young girl wearing the bronze armor shouted.

I unconsciously frowned.

(Eh? Is she actually a young girl?)

Rather than that of a young girl, that voice sounded more like the lisp of an infant.

Haru and I looked at each other.

Of course, neither of us were stupid enough to loosen our guard from that. Even from afar, we could understand the power of that attack on Hallock just now.

“Don’t be careless.”

“Of course.”

Haru and I drew our swords.

While thinking to myself that it would have been better if I kept my magical power, I investigated that Bronze Armor.

Their job.

I ended up seeing it.

【Demon Lord: Lv39】

(— !?)

You're kidding me? I checked their job once again.

” — Demon Lord!?”

I inadvertently shouted.

“There are some who call me that.”

“The real deal? — you're the Demon Lord — ”

“Sheesh, real or fake, I have no interest. Die! 「Dark Ball」!”

Killing intent suddenly wrapped around us as the Demon Lord released a huge ball of Darkness.

(That's trouble) That thought crossed our minds as Haru and I instinctively jumped to the side. Immediately after that.

The place we were standing on was engulfed by Darkness.

And when the Darkness dissipated, the ground was hollowed out.

“You guys are the private bosses right! Everything will be settled once I defeat you!”

“I don't really understand but looks like you're all fired up — I don't have anything against you but I will defeat you before you defeat me! 「Slash」!”

“「Slash」!”

Haru and I sent out Slash at the same time.

They won't be able to dodge that. Or so I thought but,

“「Dark Shield」!”

A shield of Darkness appeared in front of the Demon Lord which swallowed up our Slash.

Shit, a maxed out Darkness Magic is this difficult to deal with? It can function as both attack and defense.

Of course, having maxed out all four elements, I can also do something similar

but I pretty much have no magical power left now.

“If that’s the case, we just have to use an attack that the shield can’t defend against.”

Haru and I split and ran in opposite directions.

“Sho you pwan to attack from bwoth sides — a good pwan but.”

The Demon Lord took action after saying that. She moved straight to Haru.

Having anticipated that, Haru greeted her with a sword attack. Flames engulfed the Flame Dragon Tooth Sword. She released a ball of flames towards the Demon Lord. I immediately knew what was Haru’s plan.

She wanted to attack the Demon Lord after they slowed down to avoid that attack.

However, the Demon Lord didn’t evade. She plunged herself into the flames.

“[Dark Armor]”

The Demon Lord was clad in Darkness. Immediately after I saw that, the Demon Lord clashed into the fireball and an explosion occurred.

That was a miscalculation on Haru’s part.

“[Dark Needle]”

Dark needles flew out from the flames.

Normally, Haru would be able to dodge attacks of such a degree. However, the armor impeded her movements and she could not tell where the attack would come from due to the explosion so Haru wasn’t able to evade it.

One of the Darkness Needle stabbed into Haru’s right shoulder.

The Darkness Needle disappeared after Haru sliced it off using the short sword she held in her left hand but it wasn’t like the injury disappeared too.

“Damn youuu!”

I kicked the ground hard, flew towards the Demon Lord and swung my steel sword down.

The Demon Lord flew to her side and evaded.

“I’m sorry.”

“Don’t speak — 「Petite Heal」!”

I applied Healing Magic to Haru’s shoulder.

I actually wanted to apply Heal but this was my limit at the moment.

“You stay back.”

“No, I can still fight.”

“No.”

As I said that,

“My World!”

I opened the rift to my world and lifted Haru up.

“Sorry for the rough treatment.”

“Spwace Mwagic?”

The Demon Lord murmured in doubt. As expected, even the Demon Lord didn’t know about Jobless magic.

If that’s the case, it’s my turn now!

“Master.”

I heard Haru’s voice from the other side of the rift.

If I left it like that, she might return — even if she has to disobey my orders.

“From now on, I’ll show you the fighting style of a Jobless! Prepare yourself, Demon Lord Miryuu!”

I closed the rift to My World as I said that.

“—!? Please wait, fighting that person —”

I heard Haru’s voice.

It’s true, fighting her was troublesome but I will show her the way a Jobless person fights.

## **(194) The Demon Lord's true identity**

"I'll take you on seriously."

I said to the Demon Lord even though I was looking for a way to retreat. In other words, I confirmed with my side view my escape route, to use the ship of the fainted pirates who hired Haru.

Judging by the way the Demon Lord fought until now, her fighting style was more towards magic specialization and her speed was not that quick.

Meaning she might not be able to catch up ... if I focus everything on escaping. It will be my victory if I escape to the ship, meet up with Malina and we escape into My World.

The fighting style of Jobless, in other words, there is no shame nor lack of honor in escaping. Escaping is victory.

But the Demon Lord stood in the way of that escape path.

I'll first have to make her move.

"You're lying about fighting, you plan to escape."

"I've been found out!"

"Pathetic!"

"Don't call me pathetic! I have almost no magical power left and am in a weakened state after all! Hey, can't you let me go? I have no intention of fighting against you."

"The answer is no —"

So there's no way other than to fight?

"Then let's at least take off this armor. I'm afraid of getting put on the wanted list but that can't be helped."

"Rejected!"

The Demon Lord rejected my suggestion and attacked with flying darkness blades.

I continued to just barely dodge the attacks but just getting scratched by them would form a hole in the gold armor and leave some scratches on my body.

What offensive power.

I have no choice but to run away after all. I should be able to slip away from the Demon Lord when she's on her own — or so I thought when I was struck with even more despair.

The Demon Lord extended her hand.

Upon doing so, a rift suddenly appeared beside her.

That is — is that magic similar to my own My World?"

'No way', I thought to myself but a huge hand emerged from that rift — correction, it was a huge front paw.

Just a single one of that front foot covered in white fur was larger than me.

And the thing that ultimately emerged was an enormous white wolf.

She summoned a seriously insane monster.

Maybe it is the Demon Lord's kin?

Isn't it ten times larger than an ordinary wolf?

And then, there was a single shadow on its back. When I saw the single young girl riding on that monstrous wolf,

I inadvertently sucked in a breath.

The person riding on Fenrir's back was Sheena who I previously met on the uninhabited island.

But if I remember correctly, Sheena was with the Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei.

"Don't tell me, you are the Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei?"

" ... I am the reincarnation of that Demon Lord."

She hesitated for a moment but the Demon Lord affirmed it.

"Then do you recall a white wolf race girl named Haurvatat?"



“Yeah, I do.”

“Then all the more we don’t have to fight! Haurvatat is my companion.”

” ... Don’t jest. That child is an earnest child. She will not become the companion of a pirate.”

She claimed. It’s true that Haru is stubbornly earnest. I would probably not believe it either if I was told that Haru was the companion of a pirate.

However — it was true that the battle was meaningless.

Sheena No.3 leaped off from the enormous wolf.

“Sheena, you fight too. It’s an order.”

The Demon Lord’s voice suddenly changed. It didn’t change the fact that it still sounded like the voice of a young girl but it had become the voice of a girl about primary school age.

It sounded familiar for some reason though.

“Yes, Grandmaster.”

“Wait, Sheena! I don’t want to fight with you guys! Please persuade the Demon Lord for me.”

“I am sorry, Master Ichinojo. I also do not wish for it but this is an order from the Grandmaster. Ahh, I don’t want to do this.”

She said as her hands transformed like how Pionia does it. Into the shape of swords.

Shit, can I really not avoid this fight?

That’s right, maybe I can open the door to My World and call Haru out — as long as she waits for me to take off this armor —

“Wait!”

That’s right, as long as she waits — eh?

I wasn’t the one who stopped Sheena, it was the Demon Lord.

For some reason, the Demon Lord was squatting down and holding her head.

“Sheena, what did you just say?”

“Ahh, I don’t want to do this.”

“Before that.”

“This is an order from the Grandmaster.

“Even before that.”

“I am sorry.”

“After that!”

“Master Ichinojo.”

“That!”

Said the Demon Lord.

“Ichinojo?”

The Demon Lord asked me.

“Yes?”

“Kusunoki Ichinojo?”

“Ah, no, in this world I am just known as Ichinojo ... eh?”

Why does the Demon Lord know my name?

Did she hear about it from Sheena? Eh? Did I even mention my name to Sheena in the first place?

” ... Take off your armor.”

” ... Ah, okay.”

I’m grateful to be able to take it off but what is she planning to do?

I took off my armor and I noticed just as I was taking off my helmet.

The Demon Lord was no longer in my sights.

Correction, the Demon Lord was leaping towards me.

— Shit!

I’m going to be hit if she’s this close already.

I thought to myself when the power of Darkness exploded from the Demon

Lord's body and blew off her copper armor.

Self-destruct!?

No, the strength was too weak so it's probably a blinding attack.

"Onii!"

The person who appeared from within the Darkness was —

"It's Onii, the real Onii! Onii Onii Onii, what are you doing dying off on your own you idiot! I was really really really really really worried!"

"Miri! Are you really Miri!?"

"Yes, did Onii forget your own younger sister's face!? Even though I have never forgotten about Onii even once. What's with you? Are you an idiot? Do you want to die?"

— Ah, this brooding darkness, it certainly is Miri.

In the past when I came back from my Middle School excursion trip, it wasn't this bad but she did react similarly. Even though it was just a three days two nights trip.

"Wait, ehhhhhh! Why are you here!? Eh? Did you die too?"

"I didn't die! I only jumped into the flames at the crater in Mount Fuji."

"That most likely meant your death! Why did you do something so stupid?"

"Ah — Onii doesn't know about it. Onii is not dead. More importantly, Onii, are you hurt!? Ah, you're hurt here, what happened?"

"You're the one who did it just now."

"Ah, there's no helping that then."

"At least apologize!"

"I had no choice! I heard that Onii would be heading to Port Kobe from the southern island so I thought you would be in danger if you encountered pirates so I wanted to crush all the pirates! It was done for Onii's sake so I'm not guilty."

"You're guilty! Leaving that aside, what's with this turn of events? I thought I

was going to die just now but now I'm feeling quite fortunate —"

"Me too, Onii — I really missed you."

A smile leaked from my face as I looked at Miri hugging my chest with her eyes closed.

Even though I wanted her to live happily in Japan, I really wanted her to but I was really happy to be able to reunite with Miri this way.

Of course, I'll have to ask her a lot of questions.

"Grandmaster, until when should I continue waiting?"

Sheena and that huge wolf stared at the two of us.

## **(195) The accumulated stories**

"So, why is Onii a pirate? Do you want to become a Pirate King? Miri will help if that's what you want."

"You don't need to help. You're the reason for it in the first place."

I explained the situation.

"I see — it's so like Onii to stick your head into such troublesome matters. Didn't you want to live rationally?"

"Guh, I certainly did think of living rationally. However, after I obtained strength, I felt that it was my duty to use it for the good of the public ... am I wrong?"

"Mmm, you're not wrong. Miri has always liked that part of Onii. Well, in the past Onii didn't have the strength to back it up so Miri only thought that you were an idiot. Miri always had to follow up for Onii."

"... I have no words to refute that."

Ah, I still can't win against Miri even after getting stronger.

"Hey hey. How did you feel when you found out that I was the reincarnation of the Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei?"

Miri faced me to ask with a slightly nervous expression. I answered honestly without adding any lies.

“I was surprised.”

“That’s all?”

“That’s all. Even if you were the reincarnation of a Demon Lord or a Goddess, to me, Miri will always be my one and only younger sister. Can we go into more details later? Also, let Haru know yourself when you are ready. Although, her respect towards you might diminish a little seeing how the Demon Lord-sama she admired had turned into a shorty like you.”

“Ahh ... so the person in the Silver Armor just now was Haurvatat?”

“Yup.”

When I nodded, Miri hung her head like she was regretting it.

“By the way, what about the other pirates? Don’t tell me you murdered —”

“I didn’t kill them but they should be unconscious for a couple of hours.”

“Then it’s fine. I’ll apologize to them later.”

It’s not a nice way to put it but right now I don’t have the luxury to be concerned about them.

“That’s right, Miri. Wait here for a bit.”

“Eh, I don’t want to wait.”

“It’s an order from Onii-chan.”

“Mou, I’ll obey if it’s Onii orders.”

Miri obeyed after I exercised my brother authority.

“Oh right, did Miri come all the way here — with just Sheena and that wolf?”

“Erm, there’s also Norn-san and Kanon-san, the three of us. That wolf there is called Fenrir.”

“Norn and Kanon!? Norn as in that Norn from Florence and the Magic Sword Crafter Kanon!?”

I thought I mistakenly saw Norn at Port Kobe but looks like it wasn’t a

mistake.

Furthermore, isn't Fenrir a legendary magical beast? I'm surprised she got something like that to follow her.

"Yup. The two of them were helped by Onii so they helped to guide Miri all the way here. But if Kanon-san didn't attach the sound converting function in the armor, Miri would have recognized Onii in an instant ..."

"Sound conversion huh. I recall your voice returned to normal halfway through the battle."

"I think it was probably because the magical power was depleted. She used a cheap magic stone after all."

"I see. In any case, you'll have to properly thank them later ..."

Especially Norn since she has her own job too.

"Maybe five pieces will suffice. Miri, please call Kanon and Norn over."

Miri nodded and,

"My World"

I opened the door to my own room.

"That's Space-Time Magic right? It's magic that I have never heard of before though."

"Well, it is a unique kind of magic after all — I'll explain it later too."

I entered My World.

When I entered, Haru and Carol who heard about the situation came running over.

"Ichino-sama, you're safe."

"Master, Miryuu-san is —"

"I just spoke to her. I never imagined that Demon Lord Miryuu would be my younger sister Miri."

I said with a bitter laugh.

"Eh!? Master's younger sister!?"

Haru was shocked. She will be even more surprised once she hears that Miri is the reincarnation of Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei but I'll leave that to Miri to tell her.

"Ah also, it seems like Norn and Kanon are with her too."

"I am aware of that."

"You knew!?"

"Yes, I met Miryuu-san once at the Cat Sith village. Norn-san and Kanon-san were with her at that time too."

"Wow ... something like that happened too."

That's unexpected too.

Oh, so that's why Haru tried to stop me when I said the name Miryuu.

"Well then, I'll be calling Miri and the others over."

"Yes, we will be waiting."

The reason I entered this world was to ask Pionia to prepare five pieces of the permission seal.

I received them and returned.

"Eh? Only Miri?"

"Yup, Fenrir and Sheena No.3 went to get Norn-san and Kanon-san."

"I see — — By the way, just now Miri said that we aren't actually dead? But I'm pretty sure I died after I was kicked by that horse."

"To be exact, you recall right until just before you were kicked right?"

"Isn't it the same?"

"It's totally different. After all, was there blood on Onii's clothes?"

"... No?"

"For me as well, if I died by burning myself in a crater then my clothes would have been burnt right? The Goddesses transfer people who are on the verge of death. Also, they intentionally make people with strong souls face death."

“What! Doesn’t that mean we were killed by the Goddess-samas?”

“Ah, don’t misunderstand, Onii. Koshmar or Torerul most likely do not know anything. After all, those Goddesses are like a part of the system of this world, something like the furthest part from the core of the organization.”

“Goddesses treated as the furthest part of the core of the organization — then, the person who killed us — no, tried to kill us? Pretended to kill us? Who was it?”

“I also don’t know. Setolance and Libra probably don’t know either. It won’t be surprising if Minerva knew but the likely culprit is Tet.”

“Tet?”

Now that I think about it, I recall seeing her statue at Belasra.

If I remember correctly, it was a girl with a bob haircut. Her figure somewhat resembled that of Pionia and Sheena.

“She is the Goddess of Life. The Mother of all living beings. Although now she is passed down as the Goddess of Safe Delivery so only pregnant women and those seeking treatment for infertility believe in her so she is currently the least prominent Goddess.”

“Perhaps it’s due to the changing of times — so it was her?”

“It’s possible that she might have changed it intentionally. The only other person who might know is Daijiro? That’s guy researches the topic of souls after all.”

“Daijiro-san huh — oh, to you, Daijiro-san is a mortal enemy from your previous life right?”

“I don’t hold a grudge towards him for that. I did wish for it and without Daijiro, I wouldn’t have been able to meet Onii.”

“The way you phrase it sounds like you are very much in love with me.”

“Yup, Miri has always loved Onii since long ago.”

A sudden unexpected confession!?

“As a younger sister.”



“I’m more blessed than I deserve.”

Or rather, it’s a given that she said it as a younger sister. I’d be troubled if she said that she loves me as a member of the opposite sex.

That was when Fenrir returned.

Riding on its back were Kanon and, with her eyes spinning in circles, Norn.

Even though it has not even been two months since I parted with Norn, it felt like it has been a long time since I seen her. Well, it’s because I’ve not had time to rest at all since coming to this world.

“It’s been a long time, Norn-san. Kanon too.”

“Ho~ Long time no see, Onii-san.”

The carsick, correction, Fenrir-sick Norn was unsteady on her feet as she raised her hand and said that.

“Seriously, I didn’t think we would meet again so soon. By the way, where’s Malina?”

” ... Malina — Ah!”

Now that I think about it, I totally forgot about Malina.

## **(196) Self-introduction**

It was the first time I’ve had so many people over at My World.

We had the usual members: me, Haru, Carol, Marina, and Pionia.

In addition, today we have Miri, Norm, Kanon, and Sheena. Incidentally, the seals that allow their entry to My World were pasted on inconspicuous locations on the four of them — — Malina was the only one who would paste it on an eye-catching location like her forehead.

Miri, Norn, and Kanon showed astonished expressions as they looked around their surroundings after entering My World.

“I’m sure you all have plenty you wish to ask but let’s start with some self-

introductions. I'm pretty sure everyone knows me so let's take turns to go around starting from Haru. Although I think everyone apart from Sheena knows Haru."

"Yes, I am called Haurvatat. I am of the White Wolf race and am currently Master's — — Ichino-sama's slave. My job is Beast Swordsman."

Haru smoothly introduced herself with her usual unchanging expression and sat down. Following her, Carol stood up.

"Nice to meet you. I am Carol, also Ichino-sama's slave. I'm seventeen years old."

""Seventeen!?"""

Miri, Norn, and Kanon raised their voices at the same time. Well, I guessed that would definitely be the natural reaction when they first see her. Kanon had seen her before but she apparently didn't know her age.

Carol was slightly unhappy even though it was a common occurrence.

"Ah, a Half-Mini Hume then."

She smiled and nodded when Miri said that to herself.

"Yes. I am a Half-Mini Hume and am currently training to become a full-fledged Peddler."

"Next will be my turn then."

Marina stood up but,

"You are Malina Saku right?"

Miri spoke first.

"Oh, yes, that's right ..."

"The one who lived on the highest floor in the mansion and fell when chasing after a cat." *(TL: A mansion in Japan is similar to apartments in other parts of the world, not the standalone landed property.)*

"Why do you know that!?"

"That's because I was looking out the window when you fell from above. The

unit you stayed in was on the highest floor of the mansion I stayed in and I've seen you multiple times in the elevator."

Miri fluently explained the circumstances.

"Wait, Miri. Malina lived in the same mansion as we did? I totally don't remember her though."

"Yeah, it can't be helped if Onii can't recall. We can slowly talk about that later so let's finish the self-introductions first."

Then, having interrupted her, Miri prompted Marina to continue with her self-introduction.

"Muu... all right."

Feeling dejected from having her words interrupted, Marina fired herself up again.

"That's right. I am the Great Magician Marina! I have currently fallen into being a slave for that Ichino there but originally I was supposed to spend eternity together with my best friend Kanon there — —"

"Do it properly."

I snatched Marina's mask,

"Ah ... hawawawa, eh, erm, I'm Malina Saku. Pleased to meet you."

She lowered her head and quietly sat down.

"Yup yup, Malina has grown up seeing how she can introduce herself now."

Kanon muttered happily like she was coming from the position of a mother.

"Pionia. A homunculus created by Goddess Torerul-sama, I have been tasked with the management of this world by Master Ichinojo. My recent interest is in shipbuilding."

With that self-introduction from Pionia, our side of the introductions had ended.

Next, I urged Miri who was seated beside me to introduce herself.

"Kusunoki Miri, I am called Miryuu in this world. The younger sister of

Kusunoki Ichinojo — — called Ichinojo in this world. Pleased to meet you.”

Miri went with a concise greeting.

“I am Norn. Part of the vigilante squad in Florence, I was once saved by Onii-san in the past when I was in danger so I wanted to return the favor and help guide Miri-chan to Onii-san but I wasn’t really useful ... sorry.”

Even though she started cheerily, she gradually became depressed and finally sat down sadly. I wonder what exactly happened to her?

“Kanon. I guess only Pionia-san don’t know me. I am a Magic Sword Craftsman. I have an undesirable but inseparable relationship with Malina there.”

Kanon also finished her introduction and Sheena was last.

“Work Doll model number 417. Individual name, Sheena No.3. Favourite food is grapes.”

She bowed and thus all our self-introductions were over.

So, continuing on with the conversation earlier.

“Miri. Is it true that Malina lived in the same mansion as us? I totally don’t recall that.”

“It’s natural that you don’t remember. In that world, Malina was — — “

She was in mid-sentence when I lightly tapped Miri’s head.

“Don’t skip the honorifics when referring to an elder.”

“Onii’s the same, aren’t you doing it too? Malina-san is older than Onii.”

Miri complained as she rubbed the spot I tapped her.

“It’s all right for me — — at the moment I am Malina’s owner after all.”

“Then it’s fine for me too. I am the owner of her former owner.”

“ — — Eh?”

I looked towards Kanon.

Kanon laughed with an ‘Ehehe’.

“Well, I lost my bet with Miri-chan in the town of Belasra.”

Kanon said with a smile. It looked like she was Miri’s subordinate after all.

I wonder just what kind of game did they bet on?

It seems like Miri’s luck with games was still strong even in this world.

“Aren’t you troubling Kanon?”

“I am the side being troubled. If she didn’t place that strange function in the armor, I would never mistake Onii’s voice.”

Miri glared at Kanon.

So that armor’s voice changing function was the work of Kanon.

“Ha ... okay, let’s return to the topic.”

“Okay. All traces of Malina ... san has been erased from the world on that side. Her parent’s memories, her photos, her documents, everything. Of course, that would leave a sense of incongruity but nobody will notice it.”

“ ... Seriously?”

“I told Onii right? That we are not dead. We were transported to the Goddesses right before we were about to die. Then, don’t Onii find it strange? That there wasn’t any news regarding sudden disappearances. Naturally, it is because the disappeared people leave no traces and said people didn’t exist even before the disappearance. It’s not just Malina-san. Here.”

Miri produced an album from nowhere and showed it to me.

I was speechless when I saw that album.

That’s because in that album were photos of sceneries and occasionally the photos of my parents. And originally those photos should have Miri and I in them.

“Do you understand now? There are no traces of us remaining in that world. Malina-san’s parents and we shouldn’t have any memories of her.”

“ ... No ... way.”

Malina had her head down and fell silent.

That information was certainly shocking.

“ ... So, Miri. One more question, why did your name change to such a strange name like Miryuu?”

“Onii is the same if you’re talking of strange names. Ichinojo is also – – well, In Onii’s case, that was planned to be your real name though.”

“ ... Huh?”

“You remember grandfather? In our household, it was our grandfather who named us and grandfather named Onii Ichinojo but when registering your birth, grandmother mistook the reading and you ended up as Ichinosuke.”

“So that’s what happened.”

I finally knew the episode regarding my own name which I’ve been unaware of for 20 years. So my name was mistaken.

“That’s why in Onii’s case, you are known as Ichinosuke in the family registry but your real name is Ichinojo.”

“Real name?”

“Your true name. Post-humus name. Though in this case, it is your name before your death. Think of it as a taboo. In the past, it was said that it wasn’t good for others apart from your parents know your real name.”

“ ... I don’t understand.”

“To put it in simpler terms for Onii, it’s just like how ‘Solid Snake’ is to your Ichinosuke (alias) and ‘David’ is to your Ichinojo (true name).” your alias is Ichinosuke and your true name is Ichinojo, something like that?” *(TL: Metal Gear Solid reference. Thanks wtrmute, deras and Soyokaze for the clarification!)*

“Okay, I somehow get it now.”

I was a little perplexed to find that I understood using that analogy but in other words, my true name is, without a doubt, Ichinojo.

“So Miryuu is actually your true name too?”

“Yes, it was grandfather who named me. He said something ridiculous like he saw the potential power of an enormous dragon within the baby Miri so, in

order for the child to grow splendidly, he named her future dragon (Miryuu). But apparently mother didn't find that name cute so she only took the first two letters and it became Miri. I am seriously thankful mother had tact."

Miri thanked our late mother.

"I see. I didn't think of what to do after this. Let's release the pirates for now and let them have half the fishing grounds. After that ..."

I stared at Miri.

I wanted Miri to make use of this timing to tell Haru that she was the Demon Lord but she shook her head. It looked like she still didn't intend to let her know for now.

And so, in exchange Miri,

"Hey, Onii. Since we're already here, would you like to explore Port Kobe? Once in a while, we siblings should have some private time."

She suggested to me.

## **(197) Younger sister route 1**

The plan was for Miri and me to explore Port Kobe with just the two of us ... but.

"Miri, are you sure about this? After all, you are quite notorious in Port Kobe. At the very least, your name is well known."

"It'll be all right, Onii. Apparently, they still do not have an accurate depiction of my face so there will be no problems as long as we coerce the pirates into spreading the word that Miryuu and I are different people."

"Coerce ... fine. I'll convince Hallock to do so when I go apologize to him ... sheesh."

As I sighed, Miri looked at me from below and asked.

"Onii, have you given up on living rationally?"

Miri's question made me ponder.

Now that she mentioned it, I wonder when did it begin? That I stopped saying that I wanted to live rationally. Thinking back, in the past I would never consider acting like a pirate to attend a negotiation.

"... Now that you mention it, I have temporarily given up on living rationally since coming to this world – – maybe because I've died once?"

"Even if you ask me that, I don't have the answer."

Miri laughed, finding it amusing.

"But, I think that it is quite like you to live like this. Let's aim to become an unprecedented pair of siblings!"

"I can never become as unprecedented as you."

When I said that,

"Cough"

Kanon cleared her throat.

I looked around and saw all the members staring at me and Miri.

"Swordsman Onii-san, don't tell me you forgot about us?"

"Master, please enjoy yourself. I will be combing Fuyun's fur."

"Ichino-sama. If you plan to have a meal I would recommend the green-roofed café in the East Street? You can have the best view of Port Kobe if you get the terrace seat."

"Yeah, it is apparent that Miri-chan really missed Onii-san after all. Pionia-san mentioned that she will be making an open-air bath for all of us after this so let's enter the bath together later."

Kanon, Haru, Carol, and Norn each gave their support for my stroll with Miri.

"Then, I shall get to work with the construction of the bath. Sheena No.3-san, may I enlist your aid?"

"Understood, Pionia-san."

Pionia and Sheena hit it off without me noticing and they left to construct the



open-air bath.

“Then, I’ll take everybody’s recommendations and have some family time for the first time in a long time.”

I looked downwards at Miri and nodded.

After exiting My World, I woke up the tied up pirates and told them that I won the match and the fishing grounds were to be split equally. As there wasn’t anybody to verify the conclusion and my armor was already taken off, I wondered what would happen if they claimed that the match was invalid but Miri directly cast Darkness Magic and made a portion of the cliff disappear before pointing her hand towards the pirates and raising her bloodthirst, making the pirates all prostrate on the ground and said “We are glad to have half. Please leave us with our lives.”, appealing for their lives in tears.

I untied Hallock and concluded the mediation between the pirates by having the fishing grounds split equally for the following ten years.

“Gosh, I was shocked to hear that the Demon Lord Miryuu was actually Sensei’s long-lost younger sister.”

Hallock spoke in jest but his legs were clearly trembling.

“I’m sorry for the mess my younger sister made.”

“No no, don’t mention it. You settled the fishing ground problem and besides, you guys gave the pirates on the other side a terrible experience. They said that they would give up on pirating and go on a journey to become monks.”

“Really? Maybe they would run into the former Port Kobe pirates one day.”

I gave a wry smile. I stopped myself from retorting the fact that the Demon Lord actually increased the number of Clergymen.

“Hey, Onii. I wonder how long has it been?”

“Hn? I have ridden on quite a number of boat rides recently.”

“I mean with just the two of us.”

“The two of us ... I only recall that boat ride in the park?”

“Ah, that rental boathouse. It filed for bankruptcy last year.”

“You can’t really say the business failed, wasn’t the owner a retired grandfather who only opened the shop out of interest? The boat rental was just a hundred yen after all.”

When I said that, I felt a tear run down my cheek.

“Eh? Why – – I thought my lingering attachment to Earth was just Miri ... I wonder why am I crying.”

“I understand Onii’s feelings. After all, we can no longer return to that side no matter how much we wish for it.”

“I’m aware of that. But why this timing?”

“It’s probably because Onii didn’t have the leeway to think about it a lot. Onii only thought of me and worried about how I was doing that you didn’t have the time to feel nostalgic for the other matters ... Onii is gentle after all.”

Miri said and held my arm.

“But that is not a bad thing. After all, it isn’t a memory that you wish to forget. That’s why I feel that it is all right to reminisce about the past like this and cry. Don’t worry, I will always be by Onii’s side.”

Miri – – my younger sister’s tender voice roused my tears.

※ ※ ※

“So, why are we here?”

The first place Miri and I visited was Port Kobe’s Adventurers Guild.

“That’s because I wish to directly see Onii’s status.”

Miri said in a child-like manner.

To see the status of another person, the condition was that one has to obtain permission to be the other person’s party member. Even though I knew Miri’s job and level, I also did not know her status so I wanted to see hers as well.

“But only adventurers can use this facility to do that right? I’m not an adventurer you know?”

And there’s no way Miri with her job as a Demon Lord would be an adventurer either.

“Don’t worry, Miri may look like this but Miri is an adventurer.”

She showed me her Adventurers Guild Certificate.

“I will apply for Onii’s temporary transfer to my party. Of course, I will pay the processing fees so don’t worry.”

“Don’t be stupid. Even I have also earned quite a sum of money. I’ll pay the processing fee – -“

“Oo, so Onii has grown too. You have safely graduated from being jobless. Yup yup, I’m really glad. Furthermore, I look forward to finding out Onii’s job. I’ve never heard of a magic called My World after all.”

“ ..... ”

“Hmm? What’s wrong? Onii.”

“No, it’s nothing.”

Now that I think about it, I haven’t told Miri yet.

That I had not graduated from being jobless.

## **(198) Younger sister route 2**

“ ... What’s wrong? Onii.”

“Erm ... how do I say this ...”

Now then, how shall I break this to her?

To be honest, I should let her know but Miri was just sincerely happy for me for graduating from being jobless.

Well, after all, being Jobless is only limited to the system, I have actually been earning quite a bit.

Money from being a Peddler ... it was Carol who earned those.

Money from hunting monsters ... that was done in Haru’s name.

The huge profit I made in Belasra ... ah I used all of it to pay tax.

What the heck, even Marina was earning money as a Street Performer so I had no idea how to explain the job I have here.

Just how many times have I had these conflicting thoughts?

“Onii ... don’t tell me you’re still Jobless?”

“Eh!? How — —”

“Oh, it’s nothing.”

Miri averted her eyes and said as she touched her head. That was Miri’s signature gesture when she does something bad.

“The Church Priest...”

“What did you do to the priest!?”

“I manipulated him a little to get information. Nevertheless, I only got information that Onii never came to the Church so I wondered if you were perhaps still Jobless.”

Miri said ‘manipulated a little’ lightly like she was saying ‘went to town to buy some stuff’. I couldn’t get myself to be angry at her given how she acted as though she had nothing to do with it like that. No, I have to properly scold her.

“Idiot, don’t go around manipulating people.”

I chopped Miri’s head. It’s domestic violence. DV.

But Miri looked like she enjoyed it as she stuck her tongue out.

“Sorry~”

It didn’t look like she was apologizing sincerely but I let it slide since she already apologized.

“Yeah, like Miri said, I am still Jobless.”

“I see ... (I thought it was impossible when Koshmar said it but it was actually true.)”

“Hn? What did you say, Miri?”

“Erm, why Jobless? Couldn’t you have changed job for free?”

“Yeah ... it will be quicker once you see my status. I don’t really want to talk

about it for long in front of the guild so let's go in."

I urged Miri to enter the Adventurers Guild.

Maybe all the Adventurers Guilds were the same as the Adventurers Guild in Port Kobe was also a tavern-cum-Adventurers Guild and there was a large number of Fishermen (I sneaked a peek at their jobs) drinking even during the day.

Miri ignored those men and briskly walked to the reception counter and placed her Adventurers Certificate on it.

"I would like to apply for a party. Please temporarily transfer this person to my party."

"Please, thank you."

"... Please, thank you."

I found Miri's honorifics lacking so I reminded her and she directly repeated after me after a beat.

The receptionist man looked at the two of us and laughed wryly.

"Understood. The processing fee will be five sense, would that be all right?"

The receptionist said so I took five copper coins from my item bag and placed it on the counter.

"Thank you. How long shall the temporary period be?"

"Is one day enough?"

"Yeah, that should be enough. One day please."

I agreed and requested it with the receptionist man.

"Miri should enter Haru's party tomorrow too."

"Eh ... Then wouldn't Haurvatat become my party leader? But I was once that child's master in my previous life."

"Ah, I guess that would be tough."

To give an example, it would be like a superior who switched jobs and had to work under his subordinate from his previous workplace.

“Won’t it be fine if Onii just becomes the leader?”

“No, Miri. Didn’t I already explain it to you just now?”

I replied ambiguously.

I couldn’t register with the Adventurers Guild while being Jobless and I can’t apply for a party in the Adventurers Guild if I wasn’t an Adventurer.

And I didn’t know of any other methods to apply for a party apart from doing so in the Adventurers Guild.

“You can explain later. In addition, we’ll like to request the use of the private room – – for 30 minutes.”

Miri said as she placed ten copper coins.

I see, we certainly needed a private room to talk about my secret of being Jobless and Miri being the Demon Lord. I totally forgot about it.

“Understood, this is the key to the private room. Would you like an explanation regarding the usage of the room?”

“No need.”

“These are the forms for the temporary transfer.”

The man handed us the papers so Miri and I filled them in.

“Onii, looks like you’ve already learned to write.”

Miri asked quietly.

“Yeah, it was a piece of cake.”

I replied but, in actual fact, it was thanks to the skill I had.

After that, we handed the forms in and the temporary transfer was complete.

Now that I think about it, how exactly did Miri register with the Adventurers Guild?

Being a Demon Lord ... as I was lost in thought,

“Hn? What’s wrong, Onii?”

Miri noticed my gaze and asked with a smile.

“It’s nothing, I’ll ask later.”

I replied as we moved to the private room.

The private room had a table and chairs as well as a one-person karaoke box so the room was quite narrow but the walls didn’t seem that thick.

It looked like sound might still leak outside.

“It’ll be all right as long as we don’t speak in loud voices.”

“But I guess it’s better to have some insurance.”

I replied.

“[Silent Room]”

And wrapped the entire room with the 「Silent Room」 skill I acquired from Life Magic II.

With this, there would be no worries about sound leaking out.

“Oo, Onii can even use such magic. You sure have grown.”

“Don’t be so happy for my growth. Are you my mother!?”

“Yup yup, I’ve fallen for you once again.”

“Don’t speak nonsense.”

I know you think strongly of family but we’re not in such romantic love relationship.

“So, can I see Miri’s status?”

“Yup, it’s fine. I’ll be looking at Onii’s status after all.”

I got her permission so I chanted the status open magic.

“Status Open, Miri!”

But there was no reaction.

Why?

“Erm, Onii. Currently, Miri’s name in this world is Miryuu.”

“Ah, I see ... Then.”

I smiled wryly and chanted the magic once again.

“Status Open, Miryuu.”

Miri’s status appeared after I cast the spell.

Name:	Miryuu	Race:	Hume
Job:	Dark Magician		
	Lv60★		
HP:	120/120	MP:	440/440
Phy Atk:	100	Phy Def:	100
Mag Atk:	550	Mag Def:	495
Speed:	130	Luck:	10
【Equipment】			
Sailor Uniform	Athletic Shoes		
【Skills】			
「Space Magic III」 「Darkness Magic VIII」 「MP UP (Minor)」 「Magic Attack UP (Minor)」 「Magic Defense UP (Minor)」			
【Acquired Titles】			
「Labyrinth Conqueror IV」			
【Possible Job Changes】			
Commoner Lv1	Dark Magician		
	Lv60		

... Hn?

What’s this?

“Miri, your status seems ordinary. Well, I guess it’s in the strong category.”

“Eh? Ah ... Sorry sorry. Take a look again.”

“? All right.”

I couldn’t really understand but I followed Miri’s instructions.

“Status Open, Miryuu.”

I chanted. Miri also tagged along.

“Status Open, Ichinojo.”

Name:	Miryuu	Race:	Hume
-------	--------	-------	------



Job: Demon Lord Lv39  
(24↑)

HP:	505/505 (371↓)	MP:	330/330 (220↑)
Phy Atk:	504 (201↑)	Phy Def:	505 (2↑)
Mag Atk:	2004 (784↑)	Mag Def:	1550 (658↑)
Speed:	251 (269↓)	Luck:	30

【Equipment】

Sailor Uniform     Athletic Shoes

【Skills】

「Space Magic III」 「Darkness Magic X」 「Compounding IV」 「MP Absorption」  
「MP Optimization」 「Status Forgery」 「Authority of the Demon Lord」  
「Demon Summoning」 「Magic Beast Suicide Attack」 「Power of the Moon」

【Acquired Titles】

「Labyrinth Conqueror IV」

【Possible Job Changes】

Commoner Lv1     Herbalist Lv1

【Blessings】

Study of Medicine

Ooo, this time I could see her true status.

Why was that? I thought to myself and immediately got the answer.

【Status Fabrication】

She could fabricate her status using that skill. But, just now during the battle, I could see through her job as Demon Lord when I used Job Appraisal so it couldn't deceive the Job Appraisal skill. Well, Jobless skills had always been an exception.

Nevertheless, what the heck. She's way too powerful.

“Miri, your status ... Miri?”

For some reason, Miri's complexion was seriously pale.

“Onii ... what ... what's with this status!? Isn't this broken performance!?”

She commented so I verified my own status.

Name: Ichinojo                      Race: Hume

Job:	Jobless Lv99 (10↑)	Fire Magician Lv60★	Water Magician Lv60★
	Wind Magician Lv60★	Earth Magician Lv60★	

HP:	444/444 (10+90+90+90+90) (x1.2)
MP:	403/2416 (8+300+300+300+300) (x2.0)
Phy Atk:	394 (9+80+80+80+80) (x1.2)
Phy Def:	403 (7+90+90+90+90) (x1.1)
Mag Atk:	3608 (4+450+450+450+450) (x2.0)
Mag Def:	3206 (3+400+400+400+400) (x2.0)
Speed:	356 (4+80+80+80+80) (x1.1)
Luck:	55 (10+10+10+10+10) (x1.1)

【Equipment】

Cotton Clothes	Hide Shoes	Iron Light Armor	Asclepius’s Staff
----------------	------------	------------------	-------------------

【Skills】

「Sword Equip II」 「Slash II」 「Rotational Slash II」 「Swordsmanship Strengthening (medium)」 「Dual Wield」

【Acquired Titles】

「Rare Hunter」 「Skill Maniac」 「Job Maniac」 「Labyrinth Conqueror IV」 「The Way of the Sword」 「Peak of Apprentice Magician」 「Peak of Hunter」 「Peak of Apprentice Practitioner」 「Peak of Pugilist」 「Peak of Hammer-user」 「Peak of Apprentice Blacksmith」

「Peak of Fire Magician」 「Peak of Water Magician」 「Peak of Wind Magician」 「Peak of Earth Magician」 「Great Magician of the Four Elements」

【Possible Job Changes】

Jobless Lv99	Commoner Lv75	Farmer Lv3	Hunter Lv60★
Lumberjack Lv14	Apprentice Swordsman Lv40★	Apprentice Magician Lv40★	Peddler Lv6
Apprentice Spearman Lv8	Swordsman Lv60★	Archer Lv1	Apprentice Alchemist Lv37
Magician Lv67	Axe-user Lv1	Hammer-user Lv40★	Pugilist Lv60★
Philanderer Lv13	Magic Journalist Lv1	Apprentice Practitioner Lv40★	Dismantler Lv1

Apprentice	Alchemist Lv33	Practitioner Lv48	Musician Lv1
Blacksmith Lv40★			
Singer Lv12 (11↑)	Dancer Lv12 (11↑)	Artist Lv10	Magic Swordsman Lv12
Fire Magician Lv60★	Water Magician Lv60★	Wind Magician Lv60★	Earth Magician Lv60★
Samurai Lv6 (5↑)	Sword Saint Lv1	Gladiator Lv1	Hammer Warrior Lv1
Blacksmith Lv10 (9↑)	Boxer Lv1	Light Magician Lv1	Dark Magician Lv1

【Blessings】

20x experience point acquisition  
1/20 required experience points

I just only confirmed my own status and realized what Miri was referring to.

“I know what you want to say. Why are my skills all sword skills right? All my skills are hidden in my status management.”

“That’s not the problem here. Why is Onii so strong!? Why do you have a ton of job mastered even though you are Jobless!?”

“Look at your own status. That will answer your question.”

I said.

Miri looked like wanted to ask a lot more but she confirmed her own status.

And she was once again surprised when she did so.

“Eh? I have two jobs ... why?”

I didn’t check but the Commoner job has probably been added to her job column along with Demon Lord.

“It’s because of my skill. Using my skill, I can assign two jobs for my companions. And I can assign five jobs for myself.”

I explained my Jobless skill and told her that my sub jobs were Fire Magician, Water Magician, Wind Magician and Earth Magician.

Miri hesitated for a moment.

“Onii, it’s the first time I’ve seen a person with four side jobs despite being Jobless.”

And commented with the expected ironic statement.

## **(199) Younger sister route 3**

I continued my reveal and told Miri my ability to freely change my jobs.

“I can change Miri’s job from Demon Lord, what do you think?”

“Hn —, other people can only see the first job is it?”

“Hn? Yeah, that’s right.”

“Then, could you make Miri’s first job Commoner and second job Demon Lord?”

Ah, we could do that too.

Even if we form a party with Haru and the others and allow them to see her status, the fact that she is the Demon Lord won’t be revealed.

In a sense, the Status Fabrication skill could hide the truth but it was possible that there were skills capable of seeing through it.

“Eh? Are you sure you don’t want to put Herbalist?”

“Yeah. My blessing is the Study of Medicine so I can make any kind of medicine as long as I have the materials for it. Onii can rely on Miri anytime if you get some strange disease.”

“Then you can make Mana Potions if you have Mana Grass?”

“I’ll need water as well but yes I can make them. About one for every stalk.”

Miri claimed and patted her chest.

Able to concoct all medicine, that certainly is a cheat skill.

Moreover, it is quite a considerable cheat skill that paves way to the royal road of success.

“That’s right, Onii. Would you like to make a living by selling medicine together? Miri will make the medicine, Onii can sell them.”

“That’s an attractive suggestion but — —”

Just as I was about to tell her my goal of traveling to Mallegory, there was a knock on the door.

Or rather it wasn’t just a knock, it sounded quite violent.

“Eh? Doesn’t Onii’s Silent Room eliminate all sounds?”

“I set it such that the coverage just barely excludes the door. So that we would notice if there was a knock on the door.”

Since I got into serious trouble previously when I forgot to do so.

Leaving that aside, I wonder what’s wrong?

We still have plenty of usage time remaining for the private room and, in the first place, the guild staff won’t knock so violently.

I cautioned Miri and dispelled the Silent Room.

“ — — ease, please help!”

The desperate plea which sounded like it came from a young girl made me inadvertently open the door.

When I did that, a girl younger than Miri, about five years old, entered the room and circle around my back.

And chasing after that girl was the receptionist who processed our request just now.

I thought she committed some crime but that didn’t seem to be the case.

“I’m sorry, patrons — —”

The receptionist bowed and apologized to us.

“It’s okay, let me know what’s happening.”

“Onii-san, you’re an Adventurer right! Please save my mother!”

“That child came to the Adventurers Guild to put in a medicinal herb harvest request but the harvest target is the Kiriri grass.”

“Kiriri grass? Might the child’s mother be suffering from petrification disease?”

“Petrification disease?”

“A disease that will cause the whole body solidify like stone. The problem is that, unlike the petrification status abnormality, it is a genetic disease. That’s why it cannot be treated using Cure.”

Miri explained. Apparently in the past an Herbalist invented a medicine that would allow one to harden one’s body and using it would temporarily make their body as tough as stone and it gave birth to unparalleled warriors in hand-to-hand combat.

However, that medicine had a fatal flaw. In rare cases, their children or grandchildren may develop a strange disease that will turn their bodies into stone and ultimately become immobile. After that was discovered, the usage of that medicine was banned but even now, very rarely, there would be people who develop the disease. And once the Petrification disease develops, the patient will not recover naturally. If left alone, all that awaited was certain death.

Kiriri grass was apparently the material for the wonder drug to treat it.

Despite all that, even if there was Kiriri grass, there apparently wasn’t many Herbalist capable of concocting that wonder drug.

“Yes. The Kiriri grass can be found within a certain labyrinth on a small island three hours boat ride to the east but it is a terribly dangerous location and ordinary people cannot identify the grass so the reward for the harvest request has to be high. However, the money this child has doesn’t even fulfil 10% of it –

–”

The rejected young girl apparently went around the Adventurers Guild requesting all the Adventurers individually but it seems like offering individual requests within the Adventurers Guild was not allowed so she was chased by the receptionist and ultimately came to the private room to seek help.

“... Is it forbidden to directly offer requests to Adventurers?”

“The Adventurers Guild is an association where Adventurers aid each other

but it is not a volunteer service. The guild is run by the fees from the usage of private rooms like these or through the commissions from requests. Those commissions won't enter the Adventurers Guild if personal requests are allowed right? Moreover, the Adventurers Guild will not accept requests with rewards below the market rate. After all, the Adventurers Guild started off as an association to prevent the beating down of price of materials stripped or collected from monsters."

Now that I think about it, I recall hearing about that in Florence.

But if nobody accepted this child's request, all that awaited the child's mother was death.

"Miri ..."

"Onii, we can't. The receptionist is correct and in actual fact, this is a daily occurrence in this world. Does Onii plan to help everyone you meet? Onii's body won't last if you do that."

"That's true, I won't last if I help everyone I meet."

I smiled wryly. At the same time, I separated the girl's hand grasping the side of my pants.

"But, that is only if I don't have the strength to do so. Unfortunately, I have the strength to help. Furthermore, I am not an Adventurer so there's no problems with accepting this request right?"

I patted the girl's head twice.

"You'll accept the request?"

"Yeah. Leave it to me ... this is fine right?"

I asked the receptionist and he looked down and thought about something before nodding.

"Originally, in this case, I would not be able to allow your temporary transfer to Miryuu-sama's party but this time, the guild is completely unaware of this dealing."

The receptionist folded. It seemed like the receptionist also sympathized with the girl.

“All right. I’ll go too.”

Miri grabbed my hand while showing like she gave up.

“That’s right, then with everyone – -”

“Onii. Today is supposed to be my date with you. We’ll go with just the two of us.”

“But, the labyrinth clear bonus – -”

“Onii. Once you harvest the Kiriri grass, who will concoct it?”

... Uu, it’s true that only Miri can compound the Kiriri grass.

Since that is the case, I shouldn’t ruin Miri’s mood and we should travel with just the two of us. Furthermore, I promised Miri to stroll the city together so since I was ruining that plan, I’ll have to make it for it by going on a labyrinth clear with her — —

“Yeah, I’ll redeem my fault of renegading on my promise with Miri tomorrow by going with Miri to the labyrinth.”

I said in advance.

Sheesh, brothers who have younger sisters seriously have it hard.



## (200) To the very limits

Hallock was trembling in fear as he glanced repeatedly in my ... or rather, in Miri's direction.

It looked like he was terrified.

Miri and I were on a boat heading towards a small island to the northeast of Port Kobe where the labyrinth was at but since operating a boat with just the two of us would require too much effort, I asked Hallock and the others to steer the ship for us. Hallock's expression at that moment was as if a frog watched by a serpent — like a goblin watched by a Dragon.

"Ooo, so this is Onii's ship. It looks like a splendid sailing ship — ah, but the ship I saw there was a lot larger."

Miri recalled the sailing ship she saw within My World as she commented.

"It's because shipbuilding seems to be Pionia's current obsession. Previously she was addicted to making wine too so she's a homunculus with energetic creative impulses."

I smiled wryly and stared at the ocean.

Miri pressed down on her hair so that her twin-tail wouldn't sway with the wind as she stared at the ocean with me.

In any event, the ocean appeared the same regardless of whether it's from Japan or the Otherworld. Also, maybe because Miri was beside me? Unlike when Carol was beside me, I almost fell into the illusion that I was really looking at the ocean in Japan. Even though there's no way that could happen.

"Onii, you're thinking about Japan again right?"

"Hn? Well ... yeah."

I commented in my heart, 'I was seen through' as I nodded.

After a short while, I saw an island appear in the distance.

"Excuse me, esteemed masters. There are many reefs ahead and sailing ships can't go nearer so please switch to the small boat. Of course, we will row the

boat for you.”

Hallock said.

“It’s okay, we can row it on our own —”

“Ah, if it’s just there, we can transfer there using transfer magic. You guys can return to the harbor.”

Miri grabbed my arm and —

“Wait, Miri.”

I tried to warn her but,

“[Warp]”

She already cast the spell.

In an instant, the view in front of me changed.

I surveyed my surroundings and I saw my sailing ship in the distance.

It seemed like Miri’s warp worked.

“What’s wrong?”

“No, it’s nothing.”

In actual fact, previously when I utilized a transfer circle, I was sent to an abandoned island to the south so I was worried that the same thing would occur with Miri’s warp but it seems like it was a needless worry.

“Okay, Onii, use this.”

Miri took out a gem from her item bag.

“What’s this?”

“It’s called a skill book, an item that can let you learn a skill. Reading this would let you acquire the Stone Head skill. It’s a skill that raises your head defense drastically.”

“Ooh ... there are such convenient items. So it’s a skill book even though it’s a gem.”

If Koshmar-sama’s explanation on how this world’s system was reflected in

Japanese games was to be trusted, it wouldn't be strange for there to be such magic tools often seen in games. Just like the TM in Pokemon.

"But what kind of skill is Stone Head? I'm guessing it isn't a skill that will make one stubborn right?" *(TL: The word 'Stone head' refers to a hard-headed, obstinate/stubborn person in Japanese)*

"Nope, it's a skill that raises the defensive strength of your head by a lot. It doesn't affect the defensive strength of your entire body so it won't be reflected in your status but a normal person would be fine even if he's beaten on the head with a log. With Onii's status, most likely you'll be fine even if somebody slashes down on your head with an iron sword?"

"That much!? That already goes beyond the realm of just stone head."

It's iron head.

"But, Miri should use it then."

"No no, Miri's danger perception ability stands well above the rest so there's no need. Surprise attacks and such won't work on me at all."

She said proudly.

"Then I am the same —"

"Even though you were kicked in the head by rampaging horses and sent to this world?"

... I have no comebacks if you put it that way.

But ... just as I was thinking about how to reply, "I'll be fine since I have this."

Miri took out a yellow helmet with 'Safety First' written on it. Furthermore, there was even a headlight carefully affixed to it. Just what kind of mining site did she steal it from?

"I bought all kinds of items before coming to this world. Ah, I even have Sukiyaki ice cream. Want to eat?"

From the void, Miri took out the nostalgic strange ice cream. Just by looking at it, I could taste the sugary soy sauce frozen meat flavor in my mouth. The frost on the container showed that it was frozen.

It seemed to be the dimensional storage of Space-time Magic but looks like it stopped time just like an item bag.

It gave the image that it was an enhanced version of the item box as you can deposit items in and extract items out without chanting the spell name. Furthermore, it could even house living animals.

“You didn’t make Norn-san or Kannon eat that right?”

“Well ... those two could not understand Miri’s taste.”

Miri said with regret. Looks like she made them eat it — or rather, she tried to make them eat it.

Even I who grew up along with her couldn’t understand Miri’s taste in food so there’s no way the two of them would understand.

” ... Hey, this, Miri should use it after all.”

“If Onii doesn’t use it, I will crush it on the spot.”

Miri took out a hammer.

“All right, I’ll use it so don’t be hasty!”

Miri was the type to actually do it instead of just threaten to do it so I had no choice and thanked her.

“And so, how should I use it?”

“Touch the skill book to your forehead and say the name of the skill.”

I see.

I placed the gem on my forehead,

“Stone Head.”

And chanted. Upon doing so, the gem on my forehead glowed.

**【Skill Book skill: Stone Head acquired】**

At the same time as the system message flowed through my head, the skill book in my hand turned to dust in an instant and drifted to the sea along with the wind.

I wasn’t surprised as I expected it to be a single-use item but wasn’t that

littering on the sea?

“Miri, I learned Stone Head.”

“Seiyaaaa!”

Miri suddenly swung a wooden sword that could be bought from any souvenir store — or rather, it was the one I bought during my middle school excursion, on my head.

When the wooden sword struck my head squarely, it gave a resounding crack and split cleanly in half.

I totally didn't feel any pain on my head.

The Stone Head skill sure is amazing.

“Wait, what are you doing all of the sudden!”

“Don't fret it. Oh, if you suffer from an extremely strong hit, even though your head will be fine, you will still suffer from whiplash so be careful. But if it's that strong, your head will probably be sent flying anyway.”

“Don't try it if you already know that! Ah, my wooden sword.”

I lamented as I looked at the broken wooden sword.

I picked up the wooden sword and looked behind.

There were a stone shrine and a staircase leading to the basement.

“... Let's hurry up and go down to harvest the Kiriri grass and go home.”

“Yup. What jobs will Onii take? The enemies are at an intermediate level so Onii should be able to win easily. If push comes to shove, I can follow up too.”

“I see. If that's the case ...”

I changed my jobs.

【Jobless Lv99 Light Magician Lv1 Dark Magician Lv1 Sword Saint Lv1 Pugilist Lv60★】

Putting Pugilist in was to ensure a safety margin. I placed the other jobs so that I could raise their job levels.

Miri nodded when I explained to her.

“Yup, I think it’s good to have a balance but the Pugilist level would be wasted.”

“That can’t be helped.”

“In that case, Onii can take this medicine!”

Miri took out a small bottle from her item bag.

It was a red viper drink.

” ... Ah, oops, wrong bottle.”

“Don’t make such a mistake!”

Why was a girl of her age carrying around a red viper drink anyway?

“This is the one.”

Miri took out a medicine bottle.

Lipovitamin A, isn’t that a supplement?

“Ah, the content is a medicine Miri made. It’s a Limit Breakthrough Medicine!”

“Limit Breakthrough Medicine?”

“That’s right. Even if your job reaches the peak, you can drink this if you wish to become even stronger. For example, the limit of Demon Lord is Lv99 but upon drinking this, the maximum can be raised by 10 times, to Lv990. Of course, the required experience value will reach insane amounts though. Furthermore, if you want to make this as a Herbalist, you must first raise your Herbalist level to Lv200. Even though the Herbalist level limit is Lv40. It’s pretty contradictory right? It can’t be made unless you have the Study of Medicine Divine Blessing. Well, the Limit Breakthrough Medicine can appear as the labyrinth clear bonus in extremely rare cases so it’s not absolutely impossible to obtain.”

” ... Are you sure I can drink this?”

“Yup, it’s fine. I can obtain the ingredients fairly easily — or rather, there is no Herbalist who is capable of using them as ingredients so they are normally treated as weeds. Well, I guarantee the taste.”

I can’t trust Miri’s guarantee for taste.

I thought to myself as I drank the medicine.

“How is it?”

“Hn — it’s weird. It certainly doesn’t taste bad but I wouldn’t want to drink it every day.”

“Then, what about your job level?”

I was reminded to check when she said that.

The medicine would definitely be effective since Miri made it but the problem was that Pugilist was my fifth job after all.

I wonder if it would have an effect ...

【Jobless Lv99 Light Magician Lv1 Dark Magician Lv1 Sword Saint Lv1 Pugilist Lv60】

Ah, the star mark had disappeared.

It looked like it didn’t have an effect on my other jobs that I didn’t set as my current jobs.

“Maybe next time I should try drinking it when I have four maxed out jobs set.”

“Yup, I guess — Also, once your Jobless level reaches its limit, you can use this to further raise your level.”

Miri smoothly said a terrifying concept.

Eh? Then, if the level limit for Jobless was Lv100, then wouldn’t it change it to Lv1000?

Then, to reach the level limit, how many decades, or rather, how many centuries would I need?

... It looks like I really won’t be able to quit from being Jobless.

## (201) Cooking ordeal of the Gourmand

We proceeded along the labyrinth in the solitary island.

Even though we've reached the third underground floor, no monsters had appeared yet. I couldn't sense any presence of monsters at all even after raising my antenna to detect using the Presence Detection skill.

"There's really no monsters around. Is it because it's currently an unused labyrinth?"

"I don't think so. There were a ton of monsters when I came here thirty years ago as Famiris and moreover,"

Miri breathed in heavily and exhaled. As if she was taking a deep breath.

"There's plenty of miasma that promotes the birth of monsters so there would definitely be monsters nearby ... there's a chance somebody came by and exterminated the monsters within a couple of hours ago."

"But that's strange. If somebody was here, we would have seen a small boat anchored at the island."

"That's not necessarily the case. It is possible that they left before we arrived."

Well, I guess that's a possibility too.

"Onii, if you want to fight monsters, maybe we can deviate from the path? Even though it's a petrification disease, it's a disease that will take days or months to cause death so I think we have plenty of time."

"No, I don't have to go out of the way just to fight ... ah, but are there any Lore Monsters here?"

Lore Monsters were monsters that will allow one to gain access to a job by defeating them in a specific way.

"Lore Monster? Ah, now that you mention it, Onii has the Boxer job huh. I see, you've defeated Roo·Kanga."

Miri recalled my jobs as she nodded in agreement.



“Miri, you know Roo•Kanga? Oh, by the way, I heard that Famiris•Raritei was friends with the Cat Siths.”

The Cat Siths pointed me to that labyrinth so it wasn’t strange that Famiris•Raritei, who interacted with the Cat Siths, had conquered that labyrinth too.

“Hmm, there is a Lore Monster here but I don’t really recommend it. Since the luck element required is too strong.”

“Leave it to me if it relies on luck.”

I could raise my Luck by changing to Hunter and Philanderer. Previously, I could win in rock-papers-scissors against Suzuki who had the Saint Knight job known to have high Luck stat and I could also win at the slots. I’ve also never gotten a scourer as my dungeon clear bonus.

“Well, it’s on the way so I don’t mind.”

Miri said unenthusiastically.

In the end, we arrived at the fifth underground floor without encountering any monsters and Miri stopped before a door.

“This is the place.”

There was a signboard.

Gourmet Dining Hall?

“A dining hall?”

“Yeah, however, it’s not a dining hall for us to eat but for us to cook for the monster called Gourmand. Oh, you also can’t use dishes that you brought over from outside. The Gourmand will unlock the job for you if your dish is up to the Gourmand’s liking. And if it doesn’t like it, it will attack you. The job that can be unlocked is Outdoor Chef.”

Outdoor Chef huh.

I see, you can certainly call yourself an Outdoor Chef if you can cook up a delicious meal inside a labyrinth that isn’t outfitted with cooking equipment.

“Hn? But you said that there is a strong luck factor?”

“Onii, you still don’t get it? The other party is not a human but a monster. You

have no idea what it likes right? The food they like differ for each Gourmand monster — if I must choose, it is said that they like cooking with strong flavors.”

“I see ... heavily seasoned dishes huh?”

I started assembling a menu inside of me like I was in a cooking programme.

A heavily seasoned dish. I wonder if Chinese cooking will work? How about pepper steak?

No, the heart of Chinese cooking lies in the strength of the fire. Flames produced by magic would be too strong while the strength of the fire from a bonfire would be insufficient. In that case ...

“By the way, Miri. You mentioned that you brought a large quantity of Japan ingredients and kitchenware right? Did you bring them along?”

Every Japanese person would know about it but getting my hands on it in this world would be difficult so I asked about it.

※ ※ ※

So that’s a Gourmand?

It looked just like an ordinary red octopus.

The octopus was seated in a chair at a table far away as it stared at us intently.

“It will become hostile if you approach it without cooking.”

Miri warned me.

I nodded and started preparing to cook.

To make the fundamental dish for outdoor cooking.

And, fifty minutes later.

“Sorry for the wait!”

I placed the dish on the table. The spicy fragrance spread across the room.

It was a dish that if one had never heard of it before, just the sight of it would terrify a person and it won’t seem appetizing at all but once they smell it, it would make most people’s stomach growl.

That's right, it was curry. This time, I didn't steam any rice so it was purely just curry.

The octopus-like monster — Gourmand stared at the curry before it picked up the plate and the spoon.

[Ge]

It placed the whole plate into its mouth.

Incidentally, it ate the spoon too.

After chewing for a short while, the Gourmand spat out the shattered fragments of the plate as well as the crooked spoon. All of them were covered in curry and mucus such that nobody would think of touching them with their bare hands. I assumed that it was a failure since it spat it out but,

【Job: Outdoor Chef has been unlocked】

I heard the announcement. Ooo, it looks like I passed.

“Since it didn't turn hostile, Onii, did you pass?”

“Yeah, it looks like it was satisfied with it. Will Miri be going next?”

“Yup, even though this is the seventh challenge if I include my previous life, it's all right. I have grasped the trends and countermeasures. This is my prided dish!”

Miri held her plate and place it on the table!

“Fried Crickets!”

She placed a dish of processed fried cricket (served with tartar sauce).

When the Gourmand saw it, its bright red face turned even redder and it spat out ink.

“Ah, you haven't even tasted it! Onii, beat this guy black and blue!”

” ... Em, I understand why the Gourmand is angry though.”

I unsheathed my sword towards the Gourmand as it stretched out its eight tentacles.

It looks like even monsters can't comprehend Miri's strange tastes.

## (202) Younger sister route 4

It was the third time I thought that I was about to be done in by monsters.

The first time was when I first fought with Kobolds. At that time, I really thought I was about to die and was extremely desperate. Unlike killing rabbits which I didn't feel anything, that was when I started considering battle as an exchange of lives. The fear of kill or be killed still occasionally haunt my dreams even now.

The second time was when I fought the Leviathan. That was when I felt my powerlessness. It shattered my confidence that I could do anything into pieces.

And now was the third time.

The octopus monster Gourmand.

I didn't expect the monster that I thought I could defeat easily to retaliate. I was careless.

I didn't think that a monster weaker than me could do anything to me.

Just like the proverb a cornered rat will bite a cat, you never know what a cornered monster will do.

" ... That's why I hate this monster."

Miri said sulkily.

While having her whole body bathed in black ink.

That's right, that Gourmand self-exploded the moment it sensed that it was about to be killed. Both Miri and I would be able to withstand a regular explosion. However, it wasn't a regular explosion. I could say it was more of an ink bomb? The ink inside Gourmand's body scattered throughout the entire room. There was almost no space to escape from it.

Furthermore, it self-destructed so I didn't get any experience points. Like it was stepping on and kicking us while we were down.

"It stinks ... just what exactly did it eat to become this smelly. Wait, it was the

curry I made that it ate.”

“Onii, you can use Lifestyle Magic right? Please use Clean ... I can’t even open my eyes.”

“I get it so stop hugging me when you’re all wet with ink!”

Even though she was a Demon Lord her previous life, doing such things really showed that she was just a girl.

I applied the Lifestyle Magic Clean on Miri and did the same on myself to clean us up.

The ink on not just our faces but also our clothes cleanly fell off.

“Onii, to be safe, apply Cure too. The Gourmand’s ink contains toxins too.”

“Really? ... Ah, I heard that octopus ink has a type of strong toxin in it.”

Although squid ink could be used to make pasta.

“What now? Miri, do you want to challenge another Gourmand one more time? I can teach you how to cook this time?”

“It will take about three days for another Gourmand to appear once you defeat it. So we’ll have to give up.”

“I see, that’s a pity.”

“That is the pity here.”

Miri looked at the deep-fried cricket dish covered in ink and said.

“Even though I went through the trouble to make it.”

“No, that can probably still be eaten. Clean.”

I used Clean and removed the ink from the deep-fried cricket.

Then, I picked one and put it in my mouth.

The crunchy sensation spread throughout my mouth.

“Miri, although I understand that you want to bring out the ingredient’s taste, just deep-frying it can’t really be called cooking. If you devise a recipe to maybe deep-fry it with lemongrass or something, maybe the Gourmand will also recognize it as cooking?”

Well, even with that, I don't think that it would actually want to eat it.

However, I can't call myself an elder brother if I don't eat the cooking my younger sister made wholeheartedly so I ate it but I crossed gazes with the cricket when I ate it.

Hah, Miri's fondness for strange cooking has not changed at all.

"It's just like Onii said. Although it's appetizing enough just like this."

Miri picked up two crickets and ate them just like that.

She chewed on the crickets and I could hear the crunchiness.

Then, Miri shoved the remaining crickets into my item bag as she pleased.

"Onii, you can eat them when you want to."

"Ah ... okay. Yup, thank you."

I smiled bitterly as we exited the Gourmand room.

However, since there weren't any monsters until this point, I was worried about the boss room.

"Miri, I want to exterminate some monsters so can we take a detour?"

"Of course. I shall see Onii's true power."

"Miri won't be fighting with me?"

"But Onii's 20 times experience would be meaningless if Miri defeats them right?"

Ah, that's true.

I nodded.

I somehow felt like I was being used by my younger sister.

The room we arrived at under Miri's guidance had huge seahorse-like monsters flying in the sky.

It seemed like the monsters had not noticed our presence.

"How are they able to fly?"

"Most fish-type monsters on land are capable of flight."

” ... It’s destroying my concept of fishes. Are there any points to take note of when attacking them?”

“Won’t Onii’s spell defeat them in a single shot? With Petit Thunder.”

“You’re right — Petit Thunder!”

I took out the Asclepius staff and chanted my spell.

The lightning that flashed from the tip of the staff caught the seahorse-like monster.

【Ichinojo Leveled up】

【Light Magician skill: 「Light Magic II」has skilled up to「Light Magic III」】

【Dark Magician skill: 「Dark Magic II」has skilled up to「Dark Magic III」】

【Sword Saint skill: 「Sword Equip II」has skilled up to「Sword Equip III」】

【Sword Saint skill: 「Sword Afterimage」acquired】

“Onii, you leveled up?”

“Yeah. All my levels apart from Jobless leveled up. Light and Dark Magician reached level 6, Sword Saint to level 4 and Pugilist to level 61.”

” ... Seriously amazing. Even Advanced Jobs can be leveled up that easily.”

“What about Miri?”

“Demon Lord didn’t level up but Commoner became level 4. Help me change job to Apprentice Mage after I level up a little more okay.”

“You’re fine with Apprentice Mage?”

“Yup. My magical power has mostly been sealed. Raising my MP a little more will widen the scope that I can transfer to so it’s convenient in various ways.”

I see. Apprentice Mage certainly has skills that raise maximum MP.

Hn?

“Now that you mention it, I recall that Sheena entrusted me with a gem that is meant to seal the Demon Lord’s power but what should we do with that?”

I only thought of it now and asked Miri.

“Ah ... Onii can hold onto that for now. It’s not like the seal can be undone even though we have the gem. We don’t know where the other three gems are anyway.”

“Another three huh.”

“Yup. And it seems like somebody took one of it away. Although it was located between Florence and Belasra. They left some mysterious message saying ‘Welcome to Centaur Labyrinth’ that didn’t serve as a clue but ... what’s wrong, Onii?”

“N ... nothing.”

Even though I denied it, that manner of speech felt familiar.

Or rather, there’s no doubt about it?

It was probably Jofre and Elize who left that ‘Welcome to Centaur Labyrinth’ message behind.

Doesn’t that mean they are holding onto a gem that seals the Demon Lord’s power?

As I was thinking, I sensed presences approaching us.

“Miri — there.”

“Stop, Onii.”

Miri restrained me and looked towards the corner down the path that the presence was coming from.

A group dressed in silver armor ran pass.

It was a squad of about ten people. A person from that group turned towards us and called out.

“Squad Leader, I sense some presence in that direction.”

“Are they strong?”

“They are quite weak.”

“Then leave them be. Our goal has been achieved. We’ll head for the transfer circle.”



It seems like one of them had Presence Detection.

But, what did he mean by quite weak?

“(I used Status Forgery. The skill capable of altering status can even trick people with greater than Presence Detection II skill.)”

Miri said to me quietly.

“(Silent Room)”

I chanted and blocked the sound.

“Miri, who were those people?”

I asked in a normal tone.

“They seem to be a squad from the Church. I don’t know what they are doing here but we should let sleeping dogs lie.”

“A squad from the Church huh. They seem like an army.”

To me, they seemed like the Crusaders we had back on Earth.

## **(203) Younger sister route 5**

Miri was wary of that group from the Church — or rather they seemed organized more like an army.

Miri said to let sleeping dogs lie but as people who serve the Goddess, I figured that they wouldn’t attack us that easily. Even if they did assault us, Miri and I were very capable of turning the tables on them.

“Onii, you can’t underestimate the Church. Once you become their enemy, you will become the enemy of all humankind. Since the Church is a place where its teaching can even extend to killing gods.”

“To preach to kill gods, isn’t that getting their priorities backward? It’s like selling the land you plan to use to build a house to raise funds to build a house.”

“Hn, I think they’re a little different but ...”

I tried using a metaphor I came up on the spot but as expected I couldn’t

deceive Miri by going with the flow.

Well, Miri was the Demon Lord in her previous life so she was probably hunted down by the Church. Or rather, the hero certainly belonged to the Church so it can be said that she was killed by the Church. Moreover, it was also the Church that sold Haru into slavery and executed Haru's father.

Thinking about it that way, I probably can't get along easily with the Church.

Nevertheless, I was helped by the Hero Alessio at Ferruit and have been aided quite a bit by the Hero's companion Daijiro-san — or more specifically, I probably wouldn't have been able to travel the world so smoothly once I came to this world if it wasn't for Daijiro-san.

"Well, you might think I'm the worst kind of human being to say this but I have to be thankful for the Church."

"Thankful for the Church? Why? Don't tell me it's because you received the blessings of the Goddesses? If not for the Church, I wouldn't have had to die in my previous life."

"That's true. That's why, without the Church, Miri wouldn't have become my younger sister."

I smiled as I said that and placed my hand on Miri's head.

Perhaps she was caught off guard as Miri's eyes became rounded and maybe she was embarrassed or angry for having been treated as a child as her cheeks dyed red and she snapped back.

"Onii, don't say such words that set's a person's teeth on edge to other girls okay. You will be misunderstood."

"Hn? Misunderstood? I really feel fortunate to be with Miri like this though?"

" ... Hah."

Miri sighed as if she gave up.

"Ah. I actually feel bad that I caused you to fall into a difficult situation that you had to kill yourself but don't sigh because of that."

"Sheesh, Onii has always been like this. It's fine. I'll always be with Onii after

all.”

“No, you will one day find a nice guy and get married. Well, if there is a person out there who would take a selfish miser like you — ouch!”

Miri kicked my shin. It hurt quite a bit.

My words just now did certainly sound like the sexual harassment of a father.

But if Miri really brought a boyfriend for me to see and introduce to me, what would I do?

Shall I give him a punch in place of our father? “You actually laid your hands on my cute sister! Shut up and take one of my punches!” or something like that.

“I still don’t have another half like that. Leaving that aside, what about Onii? Norn seems to hold quite some gratitude towards Onii.”

“Norn-san huh. Haha, I saved Norn-san when she was attacked by bandits so it’s only a feeling of gratitude. Even on my end, I only feel gratitude towards Norn-san for helping me when I was injured when Kobolds attacked me.”

“Then, Onii doesn’t like Norn as a person of the opposite sex?”

“Hahaha, it would be discourteous towards Norn-san if I had such thoughts.”

I replied. If I was a self-conceited person, I would wonder if she actually had feelings towards me by sending Miri all the way over here. However, I am a human capable of calm judgment. I understood that Norn-san did all that in order to repay me for saving her life.

“I see ... so Onii doesn’t feel anything towards Norn. I guess I can let Norn go for now.”

Hn? I thought I heard something along the line of letting someone go for now?

Don’t tell me this Miri. She plans to punch my marriage partner once I bring her over?

Although I’ve never heard of younger sisters punching their elder brother’s wife candidate before marriage, if my predictions were true, currently Haru was facing the greatest danger.

Well, Haru was Miri's previous reincarnation's beloved girl after all so they should be able to get along well. Moreover, Miri who loved to make money should be able to build rapport well with Carol who is active as a peddler.

Thank god. It looks like a wife-sister-in-law war won't happen.

Looks like it will be easier to introduce Haru and Carol as my future marriage partners. Well, I don't intend to touch Carol until she reaches 18 so marriage will have to wait till after then.

"Nevertheless, those Church people don't seem that keen on leaving. I wonder what happened?"

I thought and checked the surroundings of the Church people.

That was when a shadow of a black human-shaped figure appeared from within the walls.

When the Church squad saw that, they took out a coffin-like box from a small bag.

"That looks like an item bag."

"I guess — But, is that black shadow a monster?"

"I'm not sure. I've never seen a monster like that before."

Just as Miri said that, the Church squad opened the lid to that coffin-like box.

The black shadow willingly entered that box and the lid was shut.

And the box was once again stored inside the item bag.

A living organism cannot enter an item bag.

Even though an undead can't be deemed as living, it still maintained a moveable state so they also can't be stored in an item bag.

In other words, that was not a monster after all?

"... A Homunculus like Pionia can't enter an item bag either right? But an Automata like Sheena can so maybe it was some kind of magical life form. I've heard rumors that the Church was doing research on it."

"Magical life form huh? It looked more like a kind of monstrous

apparition(youkai) instead.”

The Church squad finally left.

However, we didn’t know if they would come back so we quickly moved to the lower level.

If I was alone, I would have investigated that wall that the black shadow came out from.

But like Miri said, to let sleeping dogs lie.

And then, we found a large field of grass growing right in front of the lowest level boss room.

“Which are the Kiriri grass?”

The grass all seemed the same and I couldn’t differentiate between them.

I’m capable of Food, Metal and Mineral Appraisal but I didn’t have Plant Appraisal.

That was a skill that Harvesters acquire so Carol had it.

“There’s no helping it. I’ll open a door to My World and call Carol so that she can help us look for it.”

“There’s no need for that. I memorized all plants there are.”

Miri surveyed the plants.

“Hn, there are a few of them but their quality is not good enough to be used for medicine. Kiriri grass weakens when subjected to monster miasma.”

“Then maybe we can harvest their seeds and grow them in My World? I can grow them in an instant.”

“I think that is fine too but I believe they also grow where the Goddess statue is at the back of the boss room so maybe we can decide after we check there.”

“Boss room huh ... incidentally, what is the boss of this dungeon?”

“Ah. I think it’s a monster Onii likes?”

I listened to the features of the boss and felt a surge of motivation.

That’s because the boss was.

“Blue Eel. A natural eel monster.”

My favorite food.

## **(204) The peak of Jobless**

“Eh, Miri. Are there actually even eels(Unagi) in this world? If it's rabbits (Usagi) then I've killed them the moment I came into this world though.”

“There are. There are even regular eels apart from those that are monsters. Wait, Onii, you killed rabbits? Near Florence?”

Miri raised her voice in surprise. True, I never would have thought of killing rabbits when I was in Japan. Especially since Miri liked rabbits. To the point that she even had a rabbit headband.

“Nn ... yeah. At that time, I desperately followed what was written in Daijiro-san's note after all.”

According to Daijiro-san's note, the pelt could be sold so it was better to hunt them if I could.

However, if I didn't defeat the rabbit at that time, my Jobless wouldn't have leveled up and I would have changed job to Commoner like everyone else.

“Leaving that aside, there are eels, eels you know. I see, there are eels in this world too ... then I can breed them ... no, breeding is impossible huh.

Furthermore, if they are dungeon monsters, they would disappear once they are defeated.”

“It's impossible to breed them. In the first place, it's difficult to raise them even if we have their eggs. Well, in the past in the Demon Lord Castle we captured juvenile fish and raised them via aquaculture. But defeating the eels would drop a large fillet so I think it's fine if we just eat that? I let a Japanese who transferred to this world about 150 years ago that stayed at the Demon Lord Castle try it and he commented that it tasted as delicious as the eel from Edo.”

“I see ... then I have great expectations for it.”

I was already salivating. I didn't think I would be able to eat eel in this world.

“Miri, I have a question.”

“Charcoal, earthen charcoal grill, skewers and grandma’s secret sauce, I have them all here.”

“As expected of Miri! Perfect.”

I inadvertently gave Miri a hug.

To think she even brought grandma’s secret sauce. I thought that I at most had to resort to mirin and soy sauce.

It’s already perfect.

“Because I love the eel kabayaki that Onii makes too.”

“Very good, I’ll let Miri have the best piece! Let’s go!”

I opened the door to the boss room.

Just opening the door didn’t start the boss fight.

The battle only began when we entered the door.

That’s why Adventurers could verify the appearance of the boss in the boss room before entering.

Floating there was a blue eel with huge stature. It was 20 times the size of an ordinary eel, it looked more like an enormous snake. It was moving its body vigorously.

It’s lively.

“Hn, it’s gross after all. Onii, let’s defeat it with magic from afar.”

I thought I heard Miri say something but my body moved unconsciously.

“Ice! Ice! Ice! Boost Ice!”

I released Ice Magic.

“Onii, what are you doing!?”

Miri raised a shocked voice.

That’s because I sent the Ice Magic not at the blue eel but at the surrounding walls and the ceiling.

At first glance, that action seemed meaningless but Miri could see the unexpected effects immediately.

The blue eel's movements became dull.

"I see ... it's still a poikilotherm even as a monster ... but that looks like a tremendous waste of MP." (TL: *Poikilotherm = Animal whose internal temperature varies considerably according to the ambient environmental temperature*)

Miri muttered but I sliced the neck of the blue eel flying in front of me.

"You did it!"

Miri cried out but I unconsciously pulled my sword away when I reached the middle bone of the eel before landing and then leaping back and throwing my sword.

The eel was still alive.

"Excellent, here I come! Right on target!"

I threw my sword like I was chanting a skill.

The thrown sword stabbed into the eel's jaw and fixed it onto the ice that formed on the wall.

Great, once it has been fixed, all I have to do is make an incision from the cut at the head and cut open the torso from above the middle bone —

"Eh? The eel ..."

The eel disappeared before I knew it and there was a sliced open eel left on the ice. All that was left was to dip it in sauce and grill it.

The eel portion was five times larger than normal but there wasn't much if everyone ate it.

I wanted to defeat another two or three more but the back door opened on its own.

【Ichinojo Leveled up】

Ah, there was all kinds of level ups but that doesn't matter now.



“Miri, what is the respawn time for the eel here?”

“It’s three days. We shouldn’t wait for it.”

” ... I see.”

As expected, even I won’t wait for three days just to eat it.

“The eel being here meant that those guys from the Church didn’t defeat the boss. Onii, did you level up?”

“Hn? I did get the level up system message but it flowed too fast and I couldn’t catch it.”

“Then you could look at the log?”

“Log?”

There’s a log? A written record?

“Sheesh. No matter how game-like this world is, there’s no way we can see a log of the system message right?”

“Eh? You can’t?”

“You can’t.”

“Even if you chant Log Playback?”

“Even if you chant Log Playback ... eh? Log Playback?”

I’ve never heard of that before.

It wasn’t written in Daijiro-san’s note.

” ... Log Playback.”

I chanted.

**【Sword Saint skill: 「Sword of Creation」acquired】**

“It’s true, it sounds a little slow but it played it back!”

“Looks like you really didn’t know. Well, it certainly wasn’t written in Daijiro’s note so I was wondering if you didn’t know.”

Miri said with a laugh.

Nevertheless, I was lucky that I was taught how to listen to the system

message once again the one time I actually missed it.

Either way, I could also see it with a glance if I opened my status page even if I missed the system message.

【Dark Magician skill: 「Dark Attack Resistance」acquired】

【Light Magician skill: 「Light Attack Resistance」acquired】

Those were as expected. The other attribute magicians also have the same skills.

【There are no further levels for Jobless】

Hn? That ... I see. So the highest level for Jobless was Lv100.

Well, with the Limit Break medicine, the highest level can become Lv1000 but nevertheless, I have really reached the peak of Jobless.

However, I didn't get the title?

Normally I would obtain the title but — having the title that says 'Peak of Jobless' would be kind of pathetic.

And I acquired a single skill for maxing out Jobless.

..... Hn?

What the heck?

“Onii, what's wrong?”

” ... No ... no ... I don't really know myself.”

【Ichinojo Leveled up】

“How do you stop the playback?”

Miri taught me the method to stop the playback and I wrapped my head with my hands.

No, maybe that is the correct answer after all.

Reaching the peak of Jobless means to then seek for a job.

After all, the skill I acquired was.

【Jobless skill: 「Job Hunting」acquired】

A skill called 'Job Hunting' with unknown meaning.

*Author's note:*

*Is he finally going to quit from jobless?*

## **(205) Job Hunting Skill**

Acquiring the Job Hunting skill caused me to have flashbacks of my past.

The first day I went to Hello Work. The day I paced left and right without knowing what I wanted to do and even though I took a number, I wasn't actually called after a long time and it became time for my part-time job so I ran away and escaped.

The day after having been taught how to identify black companies by the Hello Work staff, I realized that I was flooded with employment inquiries by black companies one after the other and fell into employment depression.

And the worst was the day I established the record of hundred successive failures to land a job.

" ....." "

I fell prone on the spot.

"Ahhhhh, Onii has burnt out and turned completely white!"

*Please wait a moment*

"Onii, are you all right now?"

Miri stared at me and asked worriedly.

"Yeah, I was just reminded of unpleasant memories ... thank you. How long was I unconscious for?"

"About three days."

"I see, three days have passed ... no wonder I'm feeling hungry."

"I was lying! You were only dazed for 20 minutes!"

Twenty minutes huh ... Nevertheless, I lost consciousness for 20 minutes.

Or rather, I can say that I was lucky that I could regain myself in just 20 minutes.

“Onii, what just happened?”

“Ah, I learned a new skill. The skill when I reached Jobless Lv100. Oh, apparently Lv100 is the limit for Jobless.”

“Ooo. So what is the skill?”

“Hey, Miri. How much would the level limit rise by when I drink the Limit Breaking Medicine?”

“A bottle would raise the initial level limit to twice its original level so I believe it would be raised to Jobless Lv200 ... Onii, what about the skill?”

“Oh right, we have to get our hands on the Kiriri grass.”

” ... Yeah, that’s right.”

Miri nodded with gentle eyes. Those eyes were implying something.

Saying that I don’t have to say it if I don’t wish to.

What a capable younger sister.

This won’t do. It’s not good to go on like this.

“To be honest, I got a skill called 「Job Hunting」.”

” ... Onii, you don’t have to push yourself. That’s most likely an illusion due to Onii’s employment stress.”

“No! It’s not an illusion, it’s really called Job Hunting.”

“Serious? There’s actually a skill with such a silly name?”

Miri was only half-convinced so I told her to take a look at my status.

I had not hidden it with Skill Organization so she should be able to tell that I wasn’t lying once she saw my status.

“Alright. ‘Status Open, Ichinojo’.”

Miri chanted and viewed my status.

When Miri was looking at my status, it was as if time had stopped as she was completely still. She didn't even blink.

Ten seconds passed. Miri smiled like an angel and said to me.

"Ah, Onii. Sword of Creation is an ability that uses magical power to create a sword that can even cut ghosts. It will not dissipate even if you alter your magical power so it doesn't consume MP and you should use the Sword of Creation instead of your steel sword, unless when you wish to hide your strength."

"Don't gloss over it! You saw my skill right!"

"I saw it! I want to gloss over it! I was a Demon Lord for over a thousand years but I had never seen a skill named like a joke like that!"

Miri raised her voice.

"I have totally no idea what kind of effect it would have."

"Ah, I kind of know the skill effect. I have a skill called 'Skill Description' after all."

"Like that guy who goes 'Let me explain!'?"

"Hn it's not like the guy from Yatterman, it's more like those regular appraisal skills." *(TL: Reference to the Japanese animated series Yatterman's narrator's catchphrase when he wants to explain a certain mechanic)*

I investigated the Job Hunting skill.

Job Hunting: Miscellaneous Skill 【Jobless Lv100】

Upon using the skill, five jobs will be displayed and you may select one and the chosen job at Lv1 will replace Jobless.

24 hours after using the skill, it will revert back to Jobless. After reverting back to Jobless, the Job Hunting skill can't be used for 24 hours.

Upon reverting back to Jobless, its job level will return to its original job level before skill use.

Skills acquired through level up can continue to be used but skills that have already been acquired will not be acquired again.

I told Miri everything without leaving a word out.

“Hey Onii, isn’t it like ...”

“Yeah ... this is ...”

I looked up at the ceiling.

The rock ceiling was slightly damp and it would probably be cold to the touch.

It could be described as a skill that would not let Jobless grow even if I raise its level. In exchange, it is a convenient skill that can become another job with the restriction of 24 hours. With my growth cheat skill, I will be able to acquire all kinds of skills if I go at it seriously for 24 hours.

However, I was troubled if I should use it since I would not be able to raise Jobless while I am using that skill.

But that wasn’t on Miri or my mind.

This — this skill was —

“Isn’t it the same as being a day laborer!”

The result of maxing out Jobless was to be hired as a day laborer!

Hinting that the skills (know-how) that I acquire through the day labor would be useful for employment!?

“Hey, Onii. Why don’t you give it a try?”

“I guess I should ...”

Well, since the format is to choose one out of five, as long as I don’t choose a risky job like Carol’s Temptress, I should be able to mitigate the risk.

“All right, I’ll give it a try! Activate skill 「Job Hunting」!”

· Please choose the job you wish to switch to

(If none are selected, one will be automatically selected after five minutes)

Tank: Lv1

Pimp: Lv1

Amazon: Lv1

Apprentice Cook: Lv1

Conman: Lv1

What the heck are these!

“Onii, what’s wrong?”

“There are regular jobs too but the lineup is way too hideous. Miri, do you know about the job called Pimp in this world?”

“Ah ... yeah. The job has a passive skill that makes older women love you and also a skill that can obtain half of the experience points your party leader obtains. It is not a job that you can change to normally but a job acquired through a Goddess blessing.”

“Isn’t that a scrap job ... Amazon meaning ... a female warrior?”

“Yes, it’s for female warriors ... males absolutely can’t change to that job though.”

What would happen if I change to that job?

It’s terrifying to think that I might transform into a woman as soon as I change to that job.

Also, isn’t Conman a regular criminal?

Actually no, there are jobs called Thief, Bandit and Pirate so I guess it would be a valid job too.

“The other jobs are Tank and Apprentice Cook.”

“Oh. Tank is usually a rare job. You can change job to it if you receive the body tackle of the Rare Monster called Tank Turtle ten times but the encounter rate is considerably low so it is said to be a legendary job. The skills you can acquire are mainly those that make your body more sturdy while there is also a skill that can allow you to receive damage dealt to your companions in their stead.”

“Ah, that’s a good job. Very well, I’ll set that then.”

I chose Tank.

It would automatically choose if I didn’t select one after five minutes after all. I would not be able to return to town if I got stuck with Conman.

【First job has been set as Tank】

Very good, I don't have to worry now.

However, if I can change job to criminal jobs, I can acquire skills that only criminal jobs can.

That might be convenient in a sense.

Now then, since I'm done with confirming my skills, I guess we should quickly harvest the Kiriri grass and go home.

I walked to the Goddess statue room at the back with that thought.

I tilted my head in confusion when I saw the Goddess statue there.

I heard that the Goddess statue placed there — was the statue of a Goddess that has been forgotten.

However, I have actually seen the Goddess statue placed there.

I saw it in the Belasra church, a Goddess with sunken cheeks.

“Miri, this is —”

“Uh ... yeah. The Goddess Minerva.”

Miri said frankly.

“I guessed right. I thought it would be the Goddess statue of Metias-sama.”

“Metias?”

“Ah ... it's the name of the Goddess-sama I saw in the dungeon near the Cat Sith village. Am I wrong? I recall Stella saying that the Demon Lord was involved.”

“I was involved?”

Miri stiffened.

Then, her complexion paled and she trembled like a child that foresaw a massive earthquake.

“Eh? Hold on — I really can't remember. Metias — I should remember that name, it is supposed to be an important name but ...”



“Miri, calm down!”

I unconsciously hugged Miri.

“Don’t push yourself! It will be all right — actually, I don’t know what will be all right but it will be all right because I’m with you.”

It didn’t sound comforting at all but Miri finally calmed down due to my hug.

Miri held my clothes.

“Thank you, Onii.”

She said as she closed her eyes.

“Yeah, don’t worry about it.”

I lost myself for about 20 minutes due to the shock from Job Hunting but Miri calmed herself in just 30 seconds.

“It looks like you’re fine now. You can think about Metias-sama slowly after we return.”

“Yeah, all right.”

“Oh right. Since there’s a Goddess statue of Minerva-sama, will we get a labyrinth clear bonus if we pray to her?”

After I muttered that, I heard a voice coming from the Goddess statue.

[... I want to die. It’s tiresome to live any longer ... I wonder how can a Goddess die ... fufufufufu.]

What’s with this voice that can make a person depressed just from listening to it.

” ... Ah, that’s Minerva all right.”

Miri said with a tired voice.

I see, it’s a pitiful Goddess huh?

## **(206) The Goddess named Minerva**

[It would be great if I could die after counting to three and before I finish counting to four. One~, two~, three~, four~ ... as expected, it isn't that easy to die ... I wonder why can't I die.]

Maybe she had not noticed us as Minerva continued her pessimistic monologue.

Miri walked over to the Goddess statue.

“Minerve, you’re in right! Show yourself!”

And spoke to the Goddess statue like she was about to strike it.

The moment she did that, the scenery in front of my eyes suddenly changed.

It was a pure white space that would make one go insane if they stood still.

Was it my fifth time here already? The Goddess Domain.

Incidentally, unlike the other Goddess Domains, there was a lingering scent of brewed medicinal herbs.

“Ara, it’s been a long time, Kaguya-chan. How was it, what are your thoughts on dying after having been in a state of immortality?”

“It wasn’t immortality, just eternal youth — — also, I’m now called Miri so don’t call me by that name anymore.”

“Ara, isn’t it fine. But I remember I gave you the Study of Medicine skill when you first reincarnated because you said you wanted to create a miracle drug to become immortal. Nevertheless, good job on dying. Teach me your method of dying next time.”

“If you want to die then just kill yourself or something.”

“I’m asking you precisely because I can’t do that. Don’t tease me Kaguya-chan.”

I could tell that Miri’s temple was twitching as Minerva continued to call Miri Kaguya.

I wonder if Kaguya was Miri’s name in her previous life?

“Onii. Kaguya was my name in my previous life. Famiris•Raritei was a pseudonym.”

“Hn? Why did you do something so confusing?”

“For self-defense. Many spells use people’s name as the medium. An example would be the Status Open spell.”

“Oh right, it won’t activate unless you call out the name of your companion to verify their status. For magic tools that utilize a person’s name, there were the villains in Journey to the West, Golden Horn and Silver Horn, who had a gourd that could suck a person in if they replied when their name was called.”

“The Red Gourd right. There are similar magic tools in this world. There is one like the one that appeared in Journey to the West, it doesn’t dissolve the target but just locks them up.”

“Seriously ... isn’t it quite bad then if we encounter such an item?”

“Well, such items are called Sacred Treasures and are very rare so you probably don’t have to be so wary about it. For example, if I was trapped by an item like that, I could just escape using Transfer Magic.”

“Wow, then isn’t Transfer Magic the strongest?”

“Would Onii want to learn Transfer Magic too? Lifestyle Magic IV is a transfer-type magic.”

“ ... Transfer-type spell for Lifestyle Magic ... transfer spell even though it is Lifestyle Magic ... I somehow have a bad premonition about it.”

But it was certainly powering up step-by-step.

At first, it was just a spell meant to clean, then it became a spell to completely shut out sound and then a spell to convert magical power into oil. All of them were amazing spells if you only look at their effects.

I felt that .... it was certainly not strange that there would be a transfer-type spell too.

But is transferring part of daily lifestyle?

“Ah, but even if I can’t use transfer magic, I always have the option to escape to My World.”

I can only open the door from My World at where I open it before entering so

the end result would be that I won't be able to escape from where I would be trapped but at least I won't starve to death too.

As I was thinking that, I shifted my gaze and saw Minerva-sama climbing up a stepladder as she grabbed onto a loop made of straw rope.

"... You guys are ignoring me and talking to yourselves ... living is painful, I want to die!"

"Waaaaa! Minerva-sama, don't die! We're not ignoring you!"

"Onii, it's fine, leave her be."

"How could you say leave her be? What would happen once the Goddess-sama dies?"

While I was saying that, Minerva-sama placed her head into the straw rope loop and leaped.

"Uwaaaaa! Goddess-sama became a teru teru bozu!" *(TL: Google it if you don't know, it's a small traditional handmade doll Japanese people hang to bring good weather)*

"That's why I said it's fine."

"It's not fine, we have to help her immediately —"

I quickly climbed the stepladder to save Minerva-sama. I didn't have time to bother about where the loop was hanging from as I was in a rush to save her.

"I'll rescue you now!"

Just as I wanted to reach out with my hands, I heard a snap from the straw rope.

Minerva-sama crashed to the floor.

"Ahhhh ... that's right, I want to eat the curry Libra makes before I die. I'll die after I eat the curry made by Libra."

"She's always like that. Minerva attempts to kill herself countless times and gives up and gives excuses like that."

"Really ... right, I have some curry I made but would Minerva-sama eat it?"

I took out the curry rice from my item bag and asked Miri.

“I don’t think she would want it? The curry by Libra is a supreme masterpiece in which the spices are measured to the milligram and the cooking time is calculated to the second so curry made by Onii would —”

“Thank you for the meal.”

Minerva-sama had snatched my curry without me noticing, placed it on a table that appeared without me noticing and started eating without me noticing.

Minerva continued to silently eat the curry.

“Miri, do you have vegetable pickled in soy sauce?” *(TL: Fukujinzuke, commonly used as a relish for Japanese Curry)*

“Yeah, I do.”

“Rather than that, I would like pickled Japanese leek instead.” *(TL: Rakkyo, also commonly used as a relish for Japanese Curry)*

” ... Miri, do you have that?”

” ... Yeah, I do.”

After that, Minerva-sama resumed eating the curry with pickled Japanese leek.

Then —

“Thank you for the meal. Now then, my stomach is filled ... it’s about time I have you two leave?”

“Don’t joke with me! Minerva, I have something I want to ask you — ouch!”

“See now, Miri. That’s not the attitude you should take towards a Goddess-sama.”

I sent a hand chop to Miri’s head to warn her.

Miri became sulky but I was not going to let her continue like that.

In the end, Miri nodded and fixed her question towards Minerva-sama.

“Yeah, sorry. I have something I wish to ask Minerva.”

I actually felt that it wasn't proper to address her like that but they were kind of friends since they have known each other since long ago so that was within the range of tolerance.

"What is it? Famiris-chan."

"I can't be bothered anymore if you call me Famiris or Kaguya today. I want to know about the plot behind why we were transferred to this world."

Miri asked.

The moment she asked that, Minerva's eyes switched from her languid look up until now into a serious gaze.

"... So you came to see me to ask about that."

No, actually we were just here to pick some medicinal herbs. But I couldn't say that.

"Very well, I shall answer you."

Minerva said as she cast the 「Clean」 spell and cleaned the plate that had the curry rice and spoon and returned them to me.

"Before that, I would like a drink."

"Are you fine with tea?"

"I would like lassi."

"... Miri, do you have lassi?"

"... Yeah, if you want plain or kiwi flavor."

Minerva-sama asked for the kiwi flavor.

## **(207) Side Story: Torerul's investigation**

Inside My World, Haru, Carol, Malina, Norn and Kanon were having their meal outdoors.

There wasn't any meat available so it was a fish party.

Freshly caught fish could easily become a luxurious dish just by grilling it with salt. But that wasn't all.

The dishes lined up in front of the girls were all luxurious dishes made using vegetables. After all, they were completely pesticide-free and the taste and freshness were first-class.

"Transfer magic huh? If a Peddler had that, it would definitely lead to a path of success. Since they wouldn't need to pay tariffs and such." said Carol.

"Carol-chan, that's called smuggling. You should never do that. If you do that, I would have to apprehend Carol-chan okay." said Norn.

"Eh? Didn't Norn-san quit from the vigilante group?" said Haru.

"Didn't she say it before that she was only taking a break? But won't you be in trouble if you don't return soon?" said Kanon.

"Ev-everyone. I-it looks like the fish is grilled." said Malina.

Pionia and Sheena brought the grilled fish over.

Incidentally, there were eight fishes.

Even after counting in Pionia and Sheena's share, there was still one remaining.

Just as they were wondering whose portion that was for,

"It's for me."

The girl snatched a plate from Pionia and ate the grilled fish on a skewer.

"Yup, it's delicious. Even though Goddesses don't need to eat, just like this, I still love to eat food that was made by others."

She said as she then proceeded to snatch Pionia's grilled fish.

Seeing that girl's domineering behavior, everyone except for Pionia and Sheena was at a loss for words.

"Mother. If you want, I could grill more?"

"I recommend grilled corn."

"Then, um, Sheena was it? I will follow Sheena's recommendation and have

the grilled corn.”

She said with a grin.

“As you wish, Torerul-sama.”

Sheena bowed and moved towards the field to pluck some corn.

[Torerul-sama!?!]

Haru and the others all raised their voices in unison.

“So noisy. Keep quiet when in the midst of a meal.”

Torerul ate the grilled fish but she was unwilling to eat the meat surrounding the bone and the internal organs so she passed it back to Pionia while there was still more than half left.

“「Clean」”

She magically cleaned the sides of her mouth.

“Pionia, brew some tea for me.”

“Yes, mother.”

” ... Why have you been calling her mother since just now?”

“Although it was Master Ichinojo who poured me out from the test tube, I was created by Torerul-sama. That’s why Torerul-sama is mother.”

“Just call me whatever you want. It’s a hassle to argue otherwise anyway.”

Pionia bowed to Torerul and moved indoor to brew tea.

“Um, why is Goddess-sama here?”

Kanon was the first to ask.

“Nothing really. I have a small window of time while he’s not around — he’s currently with Minerva ... um, Ichi-whatwasitagain and his sister are visiting her so I thought I would take the chance to do what I had to do.”

“Minerva-sama and Master!?”

Haru raised her voice in shock.

“Right right. Seriously, if the Church was a little slower in their Goddess statue



replacement work it wouldn't have come to this —"

"Here you go, Herb Lemon Tea."

"Thank you ... by the way, Pionia. Usually one would serve green tea with grilled fish though?"

"I'm sorry. I will brew it again."

"Never mind, it's troublesome."

Torerul said and drank the black tea in a gorgeous cup.

Incidentally, that cup was made by Pionia.

"Here you go, grilled corn."

Following that, Sheena brought grilled corn over.

"Ah, I've already had tea so I don't need it anymore — more importantly."

Torerul stood up and, Haru, Carol, Malina, Norn, Kanon, she looked at each and every one of them.

Then,

"Um, you two — come over for a bit."

She beckoned Haru and Carol over.

"Your names?"

"I am called Haurvatat."

"I am Carol."

"I see. Haurvatat and Carol, name everyone you know that have spent more than an hour together with the both of you and Ichi-whatshisname. It's all right if you don't know their names. But limit it to people who never really interacted with the others apart from you three."

"Un-understood."

Haru nodded and listed the names.

But the number was limited.

Since, for most situations, Malina was with them most of the time.

First would be Quince. Oregeru. Sebastian. Lastly would be the lady they met in Gomaki village who owned the inn.

“Um, what about Jofre-san and Elize-san? Although I’ve not seen them a lot. The Cat Sith village was in a remote location too.”

Malina asked. True, Jofre and Elize were with Haru, Carol and Ichinojo in the labyrinth in the town of Belasra for over an hour.

“Ah, but I’ve been with those two for quite some time.”

Norn gave her opinion.

“That’s all?”

That was all they could come up with.

“I see ... hn — but it stinks of a miss ... I’ll have to investigate it.”

Torerul said and she suddenly disappeared.

Just what kind of question was that?

They had no answer to that.

However, Pionia kept her head bowed towards the spot Torerul disappeared from.

## **(208) Home Return**

Minerva-sama used a straw to sip lassi from a cup.

Even though she didn’t look like she was enjoying it, Miri said that she was.

After all, if she ate something she found unpalatable.

“Disgusting, let’s just die.”

She would say that and start killing herself.

She would commit suicide on impulse in that manner. Miri and I didn’t know how to stop her from trying to commit suicide.

I heard from Miri that — in her previous life as Kaguya, she had quite a

terrible interaction with Minerva.

“Where’s this? I should have died ...”

” ... So noisy ... I should just die.”

“Eh, why do you want to die all of the sudden! Wh-who are you!?”

” — If I die, I won’t have to answer such a troublesome question. Fufufu — ”

“At least tell me where this is.”

“It won’t matter where this place is if I die.”

It went something along those lines.

Leaving aside Koshmar-sama, I thought Torerul-sama was quite bad but it looks like Minerva-sama was even worse.

But she did properly bestow the Study of Medicine skill so if we take that into consideration, Malina who got the Street Performer job had it worse.

“Minerva, that’s enough right.”

“Oh, what’s the matter? Kaguya-chan.”

” ..... We came to ask about the contrivance that led to our transfer to this world.”

“Ah, it is regarding that. But I don’t know about it.”

The instant Minerva said that,

“「Dark Thousand Swords」”

Miri chanted and countless dark swords appeared.

And those swords were all pointed at Minerva.

“Miri, calm down. Erm, Minerva-sama — if that’s the case, do you have anything you can tell us for our sake? Maybe the secret to the world, a method to return to Japan, ah right. Or maybe about Metias-sama.”

“Metias. I have not heard that name in ages. Fufufufu. The Goddess of Life — the polar opposite existence to me, the Goddess of Death.”

“No no, you are the Goddess of Medicine. I wonder where that child is now.”

” ... Eh?”

What? What was with that remark?

“Wait a moment. Isn’t the name Metias already dead?”

“She’s not dead. If it was that easy to die, I would have died a long time ago.”

No, you want to die on a whim but would actually hesitate to die.

“But Torerul is currently looking for her though. She was fuming. Because of you, she found traces of Metias and had to start working to look for her. That’s right, you just came into contact with Metias very recently. But I wonder what would happen if Metias revives. Will it be like that time — ”

“I will not let it turn out the same way!”

” ... Oh, that’s right. You were there at the center of it at that time. Ah, right right. Kaguya-chan. Beware of the Church. Well now, I’ll send you guys back to your world.”

“Wait a minute!”

Miri stopped Minerva.

What was she planning to ask?

Just as I was guessing,

“It’s fine now.”

Miri commented.

At the same time, we appeared in the Goddess Statue room.

【Title: Labyrinth Conqueror IV has ranked up to Labyrinth Conqueror V】

【Clear reward skill: Lifestyle Magic III has skilled up to Lifestyle Magic IV】

... Ah, I somewhat had the premonition that would happen.

“Onii, how is it? Did you properly get Lifestyle Magic? Although I did actually choose to return at the timing where you would get Lifestyle Magic.”

“It was intentional!? Eh, you can actually do that?”

“Yeah. To this extent. Miri’s ability is something like Future Sight.”

“But you don’t have such a skill on your status page.”

“Ah, it’s not a skill but an ability I had since my previous life in Japan.”

“Hn? That means you made a killing in shares because?”

“Yeah, thanks to this ability.”

How absurd.

So Future Sight was actually real.

The situation was like a Light Novel Title — My younger sister’s Future Sight ability was too much of a cheat, my dignity as a brother was lost.

“But, although I call it Future Sight, I can only know the outcome of choices. For example, something like if a stock price will go up or down. Furthermore, I can’t see multiple futures. That’s why, this time I predicted Onii’s future so —”

Miri showed the scouter on the palm of her hand.

“As such, Miri’s future was uncertain. We wouldn’t get this outcome if we took turns to pray to the Goddess Statue though —”

“Did you become the Demon Lord because of that ability?”

“Kind of. When compounding as a Herbalist, when making medicine — hn, to make it easier for Onii to understand, it is split into failure, success, and great success. For example, when making a potion, failure would result in a low-quality potion, success in a regular potion and great success would result in a high-quality potion. So, the probability of a great success is extremely low but in exchange, the medicine will have amazing effects. The Limit Breaking Medicine Onii drank is actually a medicine that can be obtained with a 0.1% probability when compounding an Experience Potion.”

“So it was such an amazing medicine.”

That’s terrifying.

“Then, Onii. I’ll look for the Kiriri grass.”

“Hn? Ah, can I leave it to you? I’d like to check on the Lifestyle Magic IV spell.”

I said as I checked the magic list.

.... This is?

Home Return: Lv – ; Expenditure MP50

“Hn ... Miri, what kind of spell is ‘Home Return’?”

“Just like the name implies, it is a spell that recalls you back to your home ... in a sense. You’ll know once you cast it. It doesn’t suddenly activate but lets you choose your destination so you can cancel it.”

Ah, a spell to return home.

Isn’t that the most Lifestyle Magic-like spell up until this point?

But, won’t my home be My World?

“「Home Return」!”

My World

Quiet Beach•Former Pirate Hideout (Miryuu)

Florence•Margaret’s Clothes Shop (Margaret)

My World (Haurvatat)

Florence•Margaret’s Clothes Shop (Norn)

My World (Carol)

My World (Marina)

Hn? What’s with all these.

“Miri ... this. Your name is here too.”

“Yeah. That is a spell to transfer to the user’s home or to the home of a person of the opposite gender who has goodwill/affection towards the user. The return point differs among people and Norn would probably want to return to Florence but I don’t intend to do that so mine is probably set to the former pirate hideout I slept at until this morning?”

“Ah ... so that’s how it works.”

I see, it is a spell to warp to the house of a person of the opposite gender who has goodwill/affection towards me.

I see I see. Although I get along well with Kannon and Stella, it is not to the

extent of goodwill/affection.

” — Isn’t it that kind of magic after all!”

And also —

“Why is Margaret-san considered as the opposite gender! That guy is the same gender as me!”

My angry shouts reverberated inside the Goddess Statue room.

## (209) The start of the girl's talk

But what exactly is the basis of this goodwill/affection?

On the basis of love — probably not. Miri is included and so is Norn.

I guess it can be said that Miri loves me as family.

Norn ... might see me as a benefactor?

But if it is goodwill as friends then the same gender Jofre and Suzuki should be included as well. Although Jofre and Suzuki might not actually think of me as a friend — but I definitely don't consider Jofre a friend.

" ... Pionia's name isn't listed though."

"She is a homunculus. Don't you think she would be outside the range of consideration?"

I see ... it would be great if that's true.

At the same time, I got a shock from sudden realization.

"How is it? It's a convenient magic right?"

" ... This spell is no more than a spell to travel to a girl's house for some fun."

"Or a 'gentleman' who would send a woman home only to make a pass at her." (TL: Written as 'Escorting Wolf' in Japanese.)

I see ... an escorting wolf huh?

But Haru is the wolf, not me.

"To be honest, it is useful. I would be able to return home with this even if I get transferred to some strange location like before."

"Right ... Onii, whose names are written there?"

"That is personal information. Ah, but your name is here too. Thanks. I'm happy even if it's just love as family."

" ... Un, yeah — "



Miri smiled shyly.

“Miri, must this list be opened whenever I wish to use this spell?”

“Nope, it will activate if you say the name along with the spell chant. Like ‘Home Return, Miryuu’. Why?”

“I feel that I shouldn’t look at this list that often. Although it is convenient to know the heart of others, on the contrary, I would lose the heart to trust others.”

If, for example, Haru’s name disappeared from the list. Or Carol’s name. Or Malina’s name.

How would I take it?

I would think that they don’t actually like me anymore.

I might think that they were just utilizing me instead —

In actual fact, I was actually shocked when I realized that Pionia’s name wasn’t there and thought if Pionia actually didn’t like me.

And I ended up thinking if Pionia only tended to the vegetables, made the wine and constructed the ship because I ordered her but she actually hated it.

“Onii, you’re thinking too deep into it. Haru and Carol-chan and Malina-san are on that list right? That’s your answer.”

“Really? ... Yeah, that’s right.”

Ahaha, it’s pathetic that a brother had to be consoled by his younger sister.

I thanked Miri and —

“Ah, right. I’ll call Haru and the others over. They could get the labyrinth conquer bonus if they pray here so I would like that they received it too.”

“That’s true — hey, Onii. It’s thanks to me that we got to find the Kiriri grass right?”

“Hn? Yeah, I am of course thankful for that. Thank you, Miri.”

“And so, I have a tiny request. Could you let me have a girl’s talk in My World for 30 minutes?”

“Girl’s talk?”

“I think that I should let Haru know that I was the Demon Lord after all.”

Miri said with a bashful smile.

“You must do it now?”

“Yeah, I would like to do it now if possible.”

“All right. Then, I’ll come over after 30 minutes. Miri —”

“Hn? What is it?”

“No, it’s fine. Yeah, if Haru and the others get angry at us for keeping this a secret from them, we’ll apologize together.”

Well, I was certain Haru would not get angry.

But saying that might make it easier for Miri later.

I said that as I opened the door to My World and sent Miri off.

※ ※ ※

(Onii ... thank you. And sorry. As expected, I can’t forgive those children.)  
Miri’s smile completely vanished after entering My World.

『Haru and Carol-chan and Malina-san are on that list right?』

Ichinojo affirmed to that question by Miri.

(You have to be careful of the slip of the tongue if you find that to be personal information ... at the very least, you shouldn’t get tricked like that.) Even without utilizing that trick, she already knew that the three of them held affection towards Ichinojo.

Upon entering My World, she saw the girls having a tea party in the distance.

” ... For the crime of irresponsibly having affection towards Onii, make amends with that body of yours — 《Thousand Dark Swords》.”

A thousand swords suddenly materialized above Miri’s head — and flew towards the ladies having the tea party.

## **(210) The moment they find out Miri's real identity**

Kanon was the first to notice the abnormality. And then Haurvatat took action almost simultaneously as well.

Kanon erected standing barriers in front of Malina while Haurvatat hugged Carol.

The next instant, countless dark swords rained down upon Malina, Haurvatat and Carol.

The dark swords pierced into Kanon's barrier. And Haurvatat evaded the dark swords with keen reflexes while embracing Carol.

The barrier made by Kanon shattered with the sound of breaking glass the same time the dark swords ran out.

Haurvatat looked in the direction where the swords flew from.

"Who's there!?"

She then realized the moment she shouted.

The person who was standing there.

"Miri ... sama? Just why ..."

Haurvatat saw Miri, Ichinojo's younger sister.

Unlike the facial expressions she had when she was with Ichinojo, Miri had a cold-hearted expression when looking at Haurvatat and the others.

"I thought I would have been able to kill at least one. You're a nuisance, Kanon."

Miri glared at Kanon.

Kanon stuck out her tongue and playfully laughed. However, her eyes showed that she was serious.

"Eheh, Miri-sama. Malina is my friend so I would like it if you don't kill her."

"I see. And?"

"Er — please assign me to face another child."

” ... Understood. Kanon, make sure Norn doesn’t interfere.”

The black collar on Kanon’s neck sparkled after Miri said that.

At the same time, Kanon decided that there was no longer any need to hide anymore as she manifested her horn and wings.

“Kanon-san ... those are — devil horns and wings?”

Carol who was in the embrace of Haurvatat saw that and commented.

“That’s right. I have said it to Malina before that I am a devil — haha and I am the faithful servant of Miri-sama.”

Malina was not surprised by the horn and wings because she knew that Kanon was a devil.

However, she was shocked to find out that she was Miri’s servant.

“Well then, Norn, let’s go.”

Said Kanon.

“Eh!? Kanon-san!? Kyaaaaaa!”

Kanon grabbed Norn and flew far off into the distance.

Before that,

“Malina, do your best.”

She encouraged Malina.

They could not catch up to the circumstances.

Neither Haurvatat nor Carol nor Malina understood what was happening.

Miri who was standing in front of them was Ichinojo’s younger sister and should not be their enemy. That should be the case but they could not understand why she was attacking them.

But only she was different.

“Masters, ponder about it later! She holds hostility towards all of you!”

Pionia asserted and transformed her arms into rope.

“We should capture her first!”

The ropes transformed from Pionia's arms approached Miri — but, the next moment, those ropes became round slices in an instant.

“Pionia-san, I will not let you interfere.”

“Sheena-san. You huh?”

There was a pair of swords formed on Sheena's arms.

“Homunculus and Automata. So this will be a match to see which is the stronger one.”

“I have no interest in winning nor losing. I only aim to buy time so that Grandmaster recognizes me and rewards me with paid holiday.”

Complaints started seeping out from Sheena from all the time she had to put up with Miri.

The fight between Sheena and Pionia began and their battleground slowly shifted away.

“Now then, the three of you will have to face me. Well, I had planned for that from the very beginning —”

“Pl-please wait! Why are you doing this?”

“Isn't it obvious! Because you guys are being spoiled by Onii!”

Miri said and cast her magic.

“「Assassin Marionette」”

The dark thread that extended from Miri's body coiled around her own body.

“Assassin Marionette!?”

Haurvatat raised her voice.

Malina put on her mask and asked while readying her wind bow.

“Assassin Marionette ... what kind of spell is it?”

“A spell to control another person with your will — it was once the specialty of Demon Lord-sama.”

“Eh? But she used it on herself.”

Carol asked.

“By using it on herself, she can utilize movements beyond the capabilities of her physical body — of course, that would place quite a considerable burden on her body but —”

“「Dark Sword」”

Miri chanted and this time dark swords materialized on both her hands.

Miri was not a Swordsman so she could not use sword skills. However, the power of the Dark Swords materialized by Miri using the peak of Darkness Magic surpass that of Swordsman skills.

“「Dark Slash」”

When Miri swung her sword, a visible black-stained shockwave approached Haurvatat.

Haurvatat dodged to the side while hugging Carol but as she had to protect Carol, she could not utilize her specialty of dodging by a paper-thin difference. Naturally, evading the attack with large movements left gaps for exploitation.

Miri appeared in front of Haurvatat in a blink of the eye.

Her sword came slashing down onto Haurvatat.

With the sword quickly approaching her, Haurvatat apologized to Carol.

She dropped Carol on the ground and drew her Flame Dragon Tooth and short sword to parry the dark sword.

Then, Haurvatat saw it.

Marina was aiming at Miri from behind with her wind arrow.

Marina’s act of aiming at Miri’s dead angle was cowardly but she believed that it would at least stop her movements.

The next instant, Fenrir’s enormous body slammed into Marina. Seeing her Wind Bow fly off her hands,

“Marina-san!”

Haurvatat cried out.

However, Marina was unscathed. She somehow clung to Fenrir's body and climbed onto its back.

"I am fine, focus on the enemy before you!"

Said Marina as she clung to Fenrir who was bucking like a runaway horse.

But she would be swung off in a matter of time if it was moving so violently.

"Miri-chan, I don't know what your aims are but tell me one thing — is master all right?"

"Yes, I will never hurt Onii. Onii sent me off with a smile when I said I would be having a girls talk."

"I see — I'm glad to hear that."

Haurvatat's eyes dyed red when she said that.

She activated a skill.

Beast Blood — A skill that would dramatically raise her physical attack and speed in ten minutes. However, the demerit was that she would not be able to move for a minute after the ten minutes was up.

" ... I will end this swiftly —"

Shadows extended from Miri's feet just as Haurvatat was about to focus her strength.

(That's bad!)

Haurvatat realized that it was aimed at Carol so she used her greatly risen speed to grab her and run.

"Sorry, Haru-san. I only serve to be a burden."

"Do not mind it — Master and I are always thankful for Carol's knowledge. The right person for a right place."

Haurvatat said as she escaped towards a white horse — Fuyun.

"Fuyun, please take care of Carol! Please run as far as possible!"

Fuyun neighed and galloped away after Carol was on him.

And then, after evading another shadow that was stretched towards her,

Haurvatat approached Miri.

“You’ve become stronger, Haruva.”

“It is all thanks to Ichinojo-sama.”

“If you are that strong, why do you still remain as a slave for Onii?”

Miri said as she clad her body in dark armor.

When she saw that figure, Haurvatat’s heart thumped loudly.

Miri’s fighting style and her way of calling her Haruva.

More importantly, that presence she felt when they were together.

“No way ... you are ...”

“No matter how strong your body becomes, your heart is still weak!”

Miri said and swept at Haurvatat’s feet.

With her posture broken, Miri’s sword pierced into Haurvatat’s shoulder.

” ... You are, Famiris-sama ... ?”

“Yeah, I remember you very well. You wet the bed while sleeping with me and we went to apologize to your father. In reverse, your father prostrated and apologized instead.”

“No ... way ...”

“If you still swear loyalty to me, commit to that loyalty and die for me, Haruwa.”

Said Miri as she twisted the sword that was pierced into Haurvatat.

Haurvatat’s scream resounded throughout My World.

## **(211) Ship that transcends space**

“Are you really ... Famiris-sama?”

Haurvatat posed that question to Miri while enduring the pain.



“Yeah, in my previous life. Since that’s the case, should I talk about things only Haruva and I know about? We planted Hairo seeds in the garden. But you cried the next day because crows dug it up.”

” ... It’s true, you are ... Famiris-sama. Why ... did it turn out this way ...”

“That’s obviously because I have to give you hell for snatching Onii from me.”

Miri said and laughed.

“You see I love Onii. I love Onii I love Onii I love Onii I love Onii I love Onii I love Onii I love Onii I love Onii I love Onii I love Onii I love Onii I love Onii I love Onii I love Onii ... and Haruva and the others snatched Onii from me.”

“That’s not true! Master has always been worried about Miri-san!”

“That’s probably true. But that inversely makes it even more painful. I can never stand beside Onii. No matter how much money I earn, no matter how much evil I defeat, no matter how much I dance in front of him, I will always be a younger sister that Onii has to protect. No matter what I do, no matter how hard I work — he will never know. Unlike I who can only be spoiled by Onii to be protected by him, you girls have chosen the position to be protected by Onii.”

Anger filled Miri’s eyes as a pitch black aura rose from her.

“That’s not true — we chose these collars to protect Master and to serve as a tie to Master — ”

“Doesn’t that just mean you do not trust Onii? That you fear you will be discarded by Onii if you were not a slave? That you would not be able to accompany him? If you truly wanted to stand beside Onii, if you truly wanted to protect Onii, Haruva should have discarded the slave title a long time ago.”

“That —”

That was a truth that Haurvatat had always been avoiding.

Haurvatat was uneasy. As Ichinojo continued growing, just how much was her own strength needed?

With fighting as her only ability, she wondered if she would no longer be needed.

However, it was different now.

“I want to stand beside Master. I want to protect Master. I traveled here for that sake!”

Haurvatat was filled with regret when Ichinojo suddenly disappeared after the transfer circle.

Regret towards her own existence that was unable to protect Ichinojo even when she was with him.

She did not want to experience that regret a second time.

“Talk is cheap, you can say anything you want! With how you can’t do anything after knowing that I am actually Famiris·Raritei, how could you protect Onii —”

“No, I will protect Master — absolutely will.”

Haurvatat bared her fangs and said as she used her claws to grab the Dark Sword stabbed in her chest.

“You bare your fangs at me? Me, your Demon Lord. Was your loyalty to me a lie?”

“My loyalty to Famiris-sama was true. I even thought that it was fine to die for your sake.”

“I see, then die for me!”

Miri created another Dark Sword with magic and thrust it at Haru’s heart to deal the finishing blow.

That was when it happened.

A single Wind Arrow pierced into the Dark Sword Miri created and they both shattered.

Marina was able to balance herself on the rampaging Fenrir such that she wouldn’t fall off and released the Wind Arrow. Furthermore, the distance was well over 300 meters. The ability to hit the Dark Sword from such a distance while on a moving platform was an exquisite skill that only Marina could pull off with her mastery of Street Performer.

“Ichinojo’s younger sister, you shouldn’t look down on Haru. Moreover —”

Miri’s attention was on Marina so she reacted late to the sound of hooves approaching her from behind.

Carol, who should have escaped, controlled Fuyun and slammed into Miri.

“Haru-san, are you all right?”

“Thank you very much, Carol.”

Haurvatat stood up, pulled out the Dark Sword that was pierced in her chest and held it in her hand.

The blood flowing from her chest reacted to the Beast Blood skill and glowed red.

Then, the next instant, the positions were reversed.

Haurvatat pushed Miri down and pressed the blade of that Dark Sword to Miri’s neck.

“Release me, Haruva.”

“I can’t do that. I only have one master, Ichinojo-sama. As long as there is the possibility that you will injure me, Carol or Marina, I can’t let you move freely. Please do not use magic — I do not wish to hurt you. As it would sadden Master.”

“I see ... Onii is more important to you compared to me — Haruva, that is the truth right?”

“Yes, of course.”

“I actually wanted to hurt you more but my magical power is all dried up. Since that’s the case — protect Onii no matter what happens.”

Said Miri with a smile.

The scenery changed the next instant.

Miri, who should have been pressed down by Haurvatat, appeared standing at a position away from Haurvatat.

Norn and Kanon who should be far away were standing close to Haurvatat

and the others while Fenrir and Fuyun were grazing a distance away like nothing has happened.

“What happened exactly —”

Haurvatat looked at her own chest. Not only was there no wound, her clothes weren't even torn.

“All of us were watching an illusion?”

Said Marina.

“Yeah, that's right. The highest-grade spell from Darkness Magic 「Bewitching Theater」. A spell that would drag the people inside the space into an illusion. Only Kanon noticed it though. What you guys saw and felt was all an illusion.”

Said Miri as she took out a small box, pushed the switch within it and tossed it away. 「Bewitching Theater」uses a large amount of magical power just to display an illusion and the user even had to aim for a gap in the opponent's mind to display an effect so 「Sleep」 was a lot more usable in battle.

She successfully cast the spell during the split second gap when they defended against her Dark Thousand Swords attack.

“That was my limit after using all my magical power — it's seriously pitiful.”

Said Miri as she sat down on the spot.

“Just what was the reason for that?”

Carol asked Miri who had collapsed from fatigue.

Norn answered instead of Miri.

“Miri-chan probably wanted to ascertain all your resolution. Maybe Miri-chan, as the younger sister, wanted to make sure that all of you were not just taking advantage of Onii-san and are actually prepared to live and survive together with Onii-san?”

“Norn is seriously optimistic. And seriously stupid. I merely wanted to hurt them out of spite.”

Miri said with exasperation.

That was when it happened.

The ground started shaking.

The shaking was so intense that Carol and Norn fell onto all fours.

Kanon spread her wings and carried Malina while Pionia and Sheena saved the plates and cups from shattering as they fell from the table.

“An earthquake!?”

Malina who was hoisted up by Kanon shouted.

“There’s no way there can be an earthquake. This is a world that Master created and I have complete control over everything, including volcanic activity.”

Said Pionia as she looked up at the sky.

“Somebody is destroying the space and trying to enter.”

“So they actually can come all the way here —”

Miri said as if she had given up and passed a bottle of medicine to Haurvatat.

“Pass this to Onii. And tell him to not involve himself with the Church. Also ... to forget about me. That applies to all of you and to Onii as well. If you wish to protect Onii then you must do so.”

Said Miri as she showed a wide smile.

“Famiris-sama, what —”

Haurvatat couldn’t finish her question.

The next instant, a chain flew over from the sky and wrapped around Miri’s body before hoisting her small body up.

A distortion in space could be seen from where the chain extended from and a ship flying in the sky like an airship appeared.

“No way, is that an Airship!?”

Marina raised her voice.

Just who was it and for what reason did they do this?

Haurvatat drew her sword.

Then,

Two human shadows appeared on the deck of the Airship.

Seeing Haru and the others, those shadows,

“Oo, Haru and Carol, it’s been a long time! Jo is not around?”

“Norn and Kanon as well, it’s been a long time. Is everyone healthy? Jo is not around?”

Raised idiotic voices.

Haurvatat and the others, as well as Norn, has met those two countless times — Jofre and Elize.

“Jofre-san ... Eliza-san ... just why are you two there?”

Looking carefully, it wasn’t just Jofre and Elize. Julio, Sutchino, Milky, and Centaur were also on the deck of the Airship.

And also —

“Ey! This is the scene of my appearance! Random crew keep quiet!”

A woman roared angrily so Jofre and the others respectfully replied with ‘Yes, Captain!’ and disappeared.

In exchange, a brown-haired woman with a single eye-patch on and a wide brim pirate hat appeared.

“Do not be alarmed! According to the old covenant, I shall be taking custody of the person named Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei!”

She said as she wrapped the chain and showed them an unconscious Miri.

“That eye-patch ... Mu, you are not a simple person! State your name.”

Shouted Malina as she showed rivalry for a strange reason.

At that time,

“What the heck is this!?”

Ichinojo appeared.

※ ※ ※

“What the heck is this!?”

Just as I returned to My World after thinking that it was about time Miri’s talk ended, there was a huge ship floating in the air and an unfamiliar female pirate-like woman standing on the deck of that ship. In addition, next to that woman was a wrapped up Miri.”

“What are you doing! Return Miri!”

“Sheesh, so noisy. I will be taking custody of Famiris. I’ll be leaving now.”

The woman said that but there’s no way I would let you do so!

I’ll shoot down the ship and save Miri before the crash.

My magical power had not recovered completely but I can do that much!

“「Boost Fire」!”

I shouted and released Fire Magic.

The huge Fireball was about to crash into the front of the ship.

However —

“Barrier!”

The woman shouted and a semi-transparent glass-like material appeared around the flying ship and defended against my Boost Fire.

At the same time, the glass-like material shattered as well.

“Hou, you could break the High-performance Barrier I made — you’re not simple. State your name.”

“I am Kusunoki Ichinojo. Miri’s brother!”

“I see, brother huh? No wonder ... kukuku.”

The woman laughed like she was having fun.

“Listen here, Ichinojo, this is the ending Famiris desired.”

She said as she turned her back.

The flying ship turned around and left after breaking through the space.

I won’t let you get away!

“Eat this, Boost ...”

My body was assaulted by a terrible sense of lethargy as just as I chanted the spell.

Magical power depletion ... damn it.

“Miriiiiiii!”

I cried towards the disappearing flying ship.

“Just what the heck is this — who was that? Haru, what happened?”

I called out without knowing anything.

Haru looked up at the sky and said.

“Master ... she is — that personage is —”

She announced the mysterious woman’s name with vacant eyes.

“That personage is Daijiro-sama — one of the companions of the hero who once fought Famiris-sama.”

... What!?

That person was Daijiro-san ... !?

My confusion increased even more from the continuous stream of sudden events.

“You finally showed yourself, Metias!”

Goddess Torerul-sama suddenly appeared and further increased my confusion.

## **(212) Imprisoned Miri**

Miri woke up in a cabin. There was a small window and she could see that it was already night outside.

Looking down, she could tell that she was in the air and gray clouds illuminated by moonlight slowly passed by.



” ... Petite Dark.”

She chanted but her spell didn’t activate.

That was when Miri noticed the foreign object on her wrist.

There was a white bracelet around her wrist. That was something Miri — no, Famiris·Raritei once created, a simple item that seals magical power. It was made 500 years ago to confine prisoners capable of using magic but the slave collar was invented soon after so the bracelet was never spread to the world and was locked in the depths of the Demon Lord Castle.

It seemed Daijiro picked it up after they defeated Famiris.

” ... Hey, you are there right? Why don’t you just come in already?”

Miri said in the direction of the locked door.

When she did that, the door was unlocked and a brown-haired woman wearing something similar to that of Captain Hook from Peter Pan entered.

“You have grown quite big, Chibi Daijiro.” (*TL: Chibi = Small child/Runt*)

“You are the one who turned tiny, Famiris·Raritei.”

Daijiro said that with a smile before she suddenly grinned and asked.

“So, how was it! Your life in Japan! Hey, is it really true that a radio tower twice the height of Tokyo Tower was built!?”

“Yeah, pipe down. I’ll sew your lips if you don’t quiet down.”

Miri held her head seeing how her enthusiasm hasn’t changed even after 13 years.

The battles between Famiris and the Hero Alessio unfolded time and again.

In the midst of that, Famiris found out about Daijiro who helped Alessio many times in his adventures and kidnapped her.

Thereafter, Daijiro found out that Famiris was a former Japanese and was even the person Princess Kaguya was modeled after which made her befriend her instantly.

Incidentally, Famiris heard from Daijiro that her parents had thought of boy

and girl names before she was born. At that time, Daijiro which was meant to be the name for a son was left as her sacred name. Then, when she was reincarnated in this world, her sacred name Daijiro was taken as her official name in this world.

“Daijiro ... thank you for waiting.”

“Did you say your goodbyes?”

“I never intended to say them. Onii would definitely oppose it after all. In the first place, I came here not for Onii’s sake but for my own sake.”

” ... You’re not being honest with yourself, Famiris. Isn’t it better to just be honest? You came to this world so that you could spend your whole life with your favorite Onii-chan. But it’s really ironic. The Demon Lord died in order to protect the world. Outwitting the whole Church, keeping it a secret from your favorite Onii-chan —”

“I’ll kill you if you say anymore.”

“Fufu, but can you?”

Sparks flew from Miri’s bracelet when Daijiro asked that.

“Do you think such a second-hand magic tool is capable of sealing my magical power?”

The next instant, smoke rose from the bracelet and it fell off.

That bracelet would overheat and break once it receives more magical power than it can withstand ... or that should have been the case.

” ... Eh?”

The bracelet was destroyed. However, there was another bracelet below it and that bracelet was still wrapped around Miri’s wrist.

“Have you forgotten that I am a Magic Tool Engineer? I have long since improved on such a defect.”

Daijiro proudly claimed.

“Great job, Pinky.”

“Don’t call me Pinky. My name is Daijiro.”

“Ara? I like it. Your name, Pinky, written as ‘One’ and ‘Key’. Even though I feel that nobody could ever read that.”

Satou Pinky was Daijiro’s original name. (TL: 佐藤(さとう)一鍵(ピンキー))

She really hated that name and longed for an ordinary name.

That was why she was overjoyed when her name was Daijiro when she came to this world. To the extent that she didn’t mind even though that was a boy’s name.

“So, who knows that I am here?”

“Excluding your Onii-san’s party and the Goddesses, probably Alessio and gang as well as the Pope. Ah, and also the current Demon Lord and group.”

“Current Demon Lord? Ah, right, there were such people around. Although I have already taken down some small fry called Valf.”

“Who is that?”

“Should be some subordinate. It seemed like he was planning various schemes. He apparently used to be my subordinate but I totally don’t recall.”

“Please manage your subordinate properly.”

Just as Daijiro said that, a loud explosion echoed out.

They were wondering what happened when,

“Oh my god, Elize! The pot exploded!”

“Oh my god, Jofre! It’s a huge explosion!”

“This is a great chance to make popcorn! Elize, have you heard of popcorn?”

“Yup, dried corn that would explode when exposed to fire right! Now that I think about it, the feed for the pigs in the flying ship ranch is also dried corn!”

“That’s it, Elize! Let’s quickly get a pot that can heat up and make popcorn!”

Such idiotic voices could be heard.

“Please manage your subordinate properly.”

” ... Sheesh. I shouldn’t have brought those people even if I was lacking the manpower!”

Daijiro said as she left the room. Naturally, she locked the door after she left.

Miri looked out the window and sighed softly.

“I won’t try to escape even if you don’t lock the door or put this bracelet on me.”

## (213) Epilogue

“Ichinojo, tell me what happened here.”

Torerul-sama asked that as soon as she appeared.

I explained together with Haru and the others.

Miri rampaged around here.

When suddenly a flying ship breached the space and appeared.

And that ship kidnapped Miri.

“I see I see, that Demon Lord girl was abducted by Daijiro. That feels good after she threatened me when she reincarnated.”

Torerul-sama found it very interesting and laughed.

It seemed like that Miri was quite disrespectful to Torerul-sama when she first came to this world. I probably should have apologized then but I didn't feel like it at that time.

“Ah, that's right. That Demon Lord girl is your sister. Sorry.”

“Ah, no, I should be apologizing instead.”

Which reminds me, Goddess-samas are capable of reading minds.

Won't that mean Torerul-sama would find out that I call her the Loli Goddess in my mind?

“Hou, so those are your thoughts huh?”

” ... I'm sorry.”

I couldn't help but think of stuff I shouldn't think about.

“Oh well never mind. That's 400 times better than Koshmar-sama's Orc Goddess. Ichinojo, you shall pursue that Daijiro from now on.”

“Erm, Torerul-sama. My name is actually Ichinosuke — I can't hope ... that it can be changed back to that right?”

“Umu, it's a hassle. Be thankful that I actually remember your name.”

It would be troublesome trying to remember a wrong name too though.

“However, if you find Daijiro and bring all the people who were here just now to me, I at least offer to change just your name.”

“Really!? Then is it possible to change my sister’s name back to Miri when that time comes?”

“Hn? Are you sure you don’t want to change your name?”

“After all, calling a girl Miryuu is kind of —”

” ... Well, all right, I’ll help you change a name when the time comes — so, I leave it to you. Even I am not aware of Daijiro’s whereabouts.”

Said Torerul-sama before her figure disappeared in an instant.

Pionia who was born through Torerul-sama reverently bowed her head towards where she disappeared.

Torerul-sama doesn’t know the whereabouts of Daijiro-san huh ... I was certain she would tell me Daijiro’s whereabouts through some mysterious Goddess power.

“... Hn—, I guess we can head towards Mallegory for now.”

“Master, you are a little calmer now.”

Said Haru.

“I was able to calm down and judge the situation after speaking with Torerul-sama ... I feel that I should try trusting her.”

“Try trusting ... Famiris-sama?”

It seemed like Miri properly told Haru her identity.

I shook my head.

“Of course I also trust Miri but I meant Daijiro-san ... maybe? If that person was Daijiro-san, I don’t believe she would do anything bad to her.”

I — no, not only me, Malina and Suzuki was also saved by Daijiro-san. Because Daijiro-san left the bible for reincarnators from Earth, we are able to accept the Otherworld without falling into confusion.

“Furthermore, Jofre and Elize were with them. Those two are good people in their core. I don’t think they would travel with Daijiro-san if they felt that she was a villain.”

“But, those two were companions of the thieves who kidnapped me?”

Norn brought up such a distant past. Well, even though it was in the past, Norn was an involved party after all.

In that case ... yup, that’s right.

“Well, Jofre and Elize seemed to have misunderstood those thieves as chivalrous thieves and they had never met that mountain bandit boss before.”

I wondered why was I covering for Jofre and Elize.

“Well for me, I have to stop you from saving Miri-sama.”

Kanon said as she sat on the chair.

” — Why is that, Kanon?”

Marina asked.

“I was asked by Miri-sama to not let Ichinojo Onii-san pursue her.”

“To not let me chase after her? Why?”

“Miri-sama gave me this. She asked me to pass it to Ichinojo Onii-san once she was gone.”

Kanon said as she tossed an item bag to me.

“Inside seemed to be the magic tools from Onii-san’s country and the gold she earned in this world.”

I tried taking something out of the item bag and the first thing to come out was eel sauce.

” ... Miri knew about it? That she would be kidnapped?”

“Rather than know about it, she made a deal. Daijiro-san had already contacted us when Norn-chan went to the city for groceries. That was when Miri-sama made a deal with her to obediently be abducted once she created some memories with Onii-san and resolved some matters she was anxious

about. She received a button that would call Daijiro-san — I never imagined that she would come all the way to this alternate space to abduct her though.”

Kanon continued as she took a single talisman out from the item box she passed to me.

Then, she stuck that talisman on her own collar. The black ring around her neck dissolved and disappeared.

“With this, I have regained my freedom, please let me off here — Marina, what would you do? Are you coming with me?”

“I —”

Marina was about to say something before she shook her head.

Then, she took off her mask.

” ... Kanon ... sorry. I ... will go with everyone. If I leave with Kanon now ... I will probably regret it.”

“Malina, you’ve become stronger.”

Kanon said before she tightly hugged Malina and kissed her forehead.

Then,

“Well then, I should hurry up and leave.”

“Ah, please wait. The exit is inside a labyrinth now so —”

“I don’t mind. It’s my own desire so I will escape with my own ability.”

Kanon waved and headed to the exit.

Then, before she left, she threw a paper airplane over.

What?

I thought to myself as I stopped the paper airplane and there were words written on it.

**【Our destination is determined so if you have anything, please contact us by sending a letter to the Adventurers Guild in Handmill. by Jofre.】**

It was a letter from Jofre.



” ... Carol, do you know where Handmill is?”

“Yes, it is a town to the East of Mallegory ... is it a trap?”

“No, I trust Jofre.”

Since that guy is an idiot.

Our destination is set.

We’re going to Handmill.

After we return the Kiriri grass to Port Kobe Adventurers Guild.

## **(214) Side Story Garrison’s Adventure Diary 1**

The Adventurers Guild was rowdy as usual. Most of that hustle and bustle revolved around foul languages and the like which were meaningless to listen to but within the noise hid some information that might determine your life or death in the future. For that sake, I always had my ears open. That was the correct way to go as an adventurer.

“Oi, where’s my grilled meat! Bring it over now! Useless Garrison!”

“Ale for me! Didn’t I tell you I need a top up of Ale! Are you deaf, Garrison!”

“Hurry up and clean the table! What are your hands there for, Garrison you fool!”

“Pipe down, can’t you see I’m currently busy!”

I was bombarded with abuse from people of the same profession as I shouted and placed a chickpea potage on the table.

Damn it, looking down on me like a joke.

“Garrison-san, everyone is a customer unlike you so please treat them courteously.”

A fox-eared girl 18 years of age, in other words, the same age as me, said with her usual lovely smile.

She was Katyusha of the Brown Fox race, a receptionist for the Adventurers

Guild and the idol to us adventurers who belong to this guild. There were only six Goddesses in this world but if a seventh Goddess was ever to be born, she will definitely be from this Adventurers Guild.

“Yeah, I got it, Katyusha-san!”

I said as I waved my hand and carried the dishes while humming.

At the same time, another order came in from the neighboring seats.

“Garrison, I’d like roast meat and ale!”

“Garrison, I’d like roast meat and ale!”

Hearing that pair of male and female voices, I replied with vigor,

“Coming up!”

I cried out but then I remembered those voices — or rather, I realized that I have been hearing those voices all the time until this morning.

I turned around hoping that it was a lie but the owners of those voices were there after all.

“What are you two doing!”

A 17-year-old boy with idiotic red hair and a similarly 17-year-old girl with idiotic blue hair.

They would pass off as a pair of beautiful man and woman if they didn’t speak and their proud appearance could only be seen as first-rate Swordsman and Whip-user but idiots will always be idiots as they spoke.

“By the way, what kind of meat is roasted meat, Jofre?”

“See here, Elize. If they say meat — what meat is it?”

“Fish meat ... I guess not? They would call it fish meat if it was meat from a fish.”

“Wait, Elize. Then, meat from a cow would be called beef and meat from a pig would be called pork.”

“Then that means it is neither cow-san meat or pig-san meat.”

Our roast meat was unquestionably pork but I no longer wanted to involve

myself with them.

In the first place, whose fault was it that I had to work in a place like this.

Wait, that's right.

Why are they even here in the first place?

"Answer my question! You two, what about your work? Jofre should be working at the quarry and Elize should be working at the Sewing Guild!"

""They told us that we can go home.""

They can go home? But it has not even been three hours since they started work.

I can't imagine these two finishing a day's work in just three hours.

""They told us to never come back.""

In other words, they were fired huh?

... They were fired in three hours ... looks like it was my fault to think that Jofre with nothing but his idiotic strength could work in the rocky mountains while Elize with nothing but her dexterity with her hands could work at the Sewing Guild.

"Hey, Garrison! As adventurers, we belong in dungeons so let's go to a dungeon! A dungeon in the only place to show my true ability!"

"Me too, I can show my Monster-User true ability too, Garrison!"

Idiots were saying idiotic words.

Incidentally, these two were saying they were Swordsman and Monster-user but that was a lie.

Jofre was an Apprentice Swordsman and Elize was a Whip-user.

"There's no way we can go to a dungeon. Just whose fault do you think it is that we have to do this?"

""Garrison's fault?""

"It's both your faults!"

Jofre, Elize and myself, instead of childhood friends, I would say it is more like

an undesirable but inseparable relationship since we were kids.

I was the son of a rancher and Jofre and Elize sometimes snuck into the ranch to drink milk without permission while they also occasionally helped with the milking.

One day, Jofre and Elize said that they wanted to become adventurers and given that I always had an interest towards adventurers for a long time, I followed them to the church and changed job to Apprentice Spearman a month ago.

From that day on, I did spear practices every day and I reached level 3.

We had a discussion that it was about time we challenged a beginner dungeon so the three of us had a small party.

“I told you two before. The barn was scheduled to kill an old goat tomorrow so we can have roast meat party after that. Why did you guys kill father’s favorite sheep! And you even told everyone! It was my fault to think that you two could distinguish between a goat and a sheep.”

“See, it was Garrison’s fault after all.”

“See, it was Garrison’s fault.”

Thanks to them, I was scolded severely by my father and had to compensate for the sheep.

The price for a sheep was 4000 sense. The remaining sheep meat and wool could sell for 3500 sense so until I paid the remaining 500 sense (about 5 days worth of pay for an Adventurers Guild staff or a week worth of my part-time job pay), he would not return my spear.

In other words, we could not go to the dungeon.

“Don’t worry about that, Garrison! I prepared your weapon for you.”

“I also prepared!”

Said the two of them as they placed them on my hand.

“You two ...”

I looked at the things Jofre and Elize took out.

“What’s this?”

I asked Jofre first.

“Can’t you tell just by looking? I got it instead of my salary from the quarry.”

“I can tell from looking! It’s a pickaxe! What I’m asking is why are you giving a Spearman like myself a pickaxe as a weapon. Moreover, Elize, this isn’t even a weapon!”

“Ehehe, I got it from the Sewing Guild. It is the same as it pierces!”

“The size is completely different! Tell me, how am I supposed to fight with a sewing needle!”

Maybe this is a message from them asking me to sew their mouths shut with this sewing needle?

If that was the case, I would prefer if she prepared thread as well but there was no thread in sight. The thread in my patience had already been worn out and could no longer be used.

“Garrison, let’s go to the dungeon! If we get our hands on a Rare Medal, we can settle your debts right?”

“That’s right, Garrison. A pickaxe is more than enough for a Beginner’s Dungeon. I heard that Margaret-san from the clothes store could crush a Goblin King’s head with his bare hands.”

“Well, of course, it is Margaret-san after all.”

That person called Margaret was a muscular uncle working at the clothes store.

It was said that he might have been a remarkable mercenary or perhaps an adventurer in the past but I have no idea.

“Leaving that aside, entering the dungeon with this kind of equipment is kind of — —”

“Eh? Garrison-san is heading to the Beginner’s Dungeon?”

It was Katyusha-chan who asked.

“No, I — —”

“If you’re going to the dungeon, there’s a request for Goblin Swords so it would help if you bring any that you find to us.”

“Leave it to me, Katyusha-san! If it is for Katyusha-san’s sake, I will gather one or two Goblin Swords in a jiffy!”

I said to Katyusha-chan as I snatched the pickaxe from Jofre and left the shop.

## (215) Side Story Garrison's Adventure Diary 2

And so, for some strange reason, I was going to the Beginner's Dungeon with a pickaxe and a sewing needle.

For starters, I bought a collar from the Adventurers Guild first.

Incidentally, a pickaxe was considered to be a type of sword. Before I became an Apprentice Spearman, I raised my Apprentice Swordsman level too so I had the Equip Sword skill. If I didn't have it, I wouldn't even be able to swing the pickaxe properly.

"- – Hn?"

While walking down the main street, I saw an unusual girl and inadvertently looked back.

A young girl with white hair and dog ears – – no, wolf ears.

(White Wolf Race huh? ... If she's with Master Mathias then that means she is a slave.) The Demon Lord has already been dead for 10 years.

The discrimination towards the White Wolf Race had pretty much diminished. During the war with the Demon Race, the White Wolf Race was split into two factions. One faction fought together with the Demon Lord while the other fought alongside the Hero.

After the war, the lucky White Wolf Races on the Demon Lord side became slaves. The unlucky ones were executed. Among the ones that fell into slavery, apart from those who were released by their master's compassion, a great majority of them were never released from slavery until death.

(At least I hope she was bought by a good master.)

As I didn't have the leeway to buy a slave.

"Garrison, what's wrong?"

After walking quite far ahead, Jofre turned back and shouted loudly.

I found it troublesome to reply so I slowly walked to chase up to Jofre and Elize.

“I just find it amazing that you guys can be so carefree.”

I complained with a tired voice.

“Oh, thank you, Garrison.”

“Thanks, Garrison.”

Idiots who can't understand sarcasm.

There was a Vigilante group man standing guard at the entrance to the Beginner's Dungeon so I just lightly bowed towards him.

Then, we arrived at the first floor of the Beginner's Dungeon.

“Our levels are still low. I would want to raise our levels by at least 1 before we encounter the goblin king.”

I said as I turned back – – and there was no one there.

“ ... Ha?”

It has only been about 3 minutes since we entered the labyrinth. Why are they already lost?

For starters, I quickly left the labyrinth and asked the Vigilante man if Jofre and Elize left the labyrinth. He said that Jofre and Elize definitely entered the labyrinth with me and they had not left.

If that's the case, it meant that they took the left path instead of the right path at the very first fork when going down the stairs. Or perhaps they found a hidden passage and went down that path. Of course, for the first floor which has been investigated thoroughly, the probability of a hidden passage was astronomically small. A passage like that might be possible from the 5<sup>th</sup> floor onwards.

Having requested that they are held in the guardroom if Jofre and Elize returned, I proceeded in the direction I assumed they went towards.

However, I quickly came upon a junction.

Those two would never use reasoning for their consideration on which path



to take. Even if they did, they were the type to take the path that was the exact opposite of that reasoning.

I might as well abandon them, I thought to myself.

— — No, if I am to abandon them, I will not be at ease until I ascertain their death with my own eyes!

If I leave them behind thinking that they died and they came back alive a week later, they definitely would have caused some kind of problem and I would be forced to clean up after their mess.

I desperately looked for Jofre and Elize.

That was when I saw —

“A kobold!”

A dog-like monster that runs on two feet and was slightly smaller than humans. They are deemed a low-level monster but apart from combat professions, they are threatening monsters to Commoners. Their agility was higher than an ordinary Commoner so escaping it would be difficult if it started chasing. Even as an Apprentice Spearman, there was a high chance that it would catch up to me if I showed my back and ran.

Since that’s the case, there’s only one option. The first to move wins!

I checked my own neck to make sure I had the collar on.

The weapons held by Kobolds were mostly tree branches and fallen rocks. Also, their agility was high but that doesn’t mean that their evasion ability was superior so in a one-versus-one with a sword or a pickaxe like I was holding in hand, there was no chance of losing. Even if they resorted to biting, Kobolds only bite the arms, shoulder and neck. With the collar to protect my neck, I won’t be killed instantly so as long as I remained calm, I won’t lose even if I lost the initiative.

For that reason, it was commonplace for people to buy collars like me when going into labyrinths with numerous Kobolds.

I heaved the pickaxe up and swung it down on the head of the approaching Kobold.

The sensation of crushing the skull was transmitted to my hands through the handle – – I could not get used to that feeling no matter how many times it happens but it also came with a sense of relieve. That sensation was definite proof of killing a monster.

“My level ... didn’t rise.”

Level ups don’t happen so easily.

I knew that but I wanted to quickly become stronger.

The Kobold corpse and its blood that splattered on me disappeared and all that was left was a small purple magic stone at my feet.

I placed the magic stone in my tanned leather bag.

The fact that the Kobold was there meant that Jofre and Elize did not take that path. I can’t imagine them slipping past a passage with a Kobold there – – I thought to myself when I suddenly heard footsteps approaching me from ahead.

Was that perhaps Kofre and Elize? I thought but I was wrong.

“Hn? Ah, Norn-chan.”

She was a girl with blue short hair and brown skin. I met her multiple times in the labyrinth.

“You’re alone?”

“Yes, it’s training for the Vigilante group.”

“Oh right, Norn-chan entered the Vigilante group.”

The Vigilante group desired strength. Apprentice Swordsman and Apprentice Spearman can raise levels just by doing practice swings but it was more efficient to defeat monsters. For that sake, the Vigilante group would patrol the labyrinth once every three days and level up at the same time.

Incidentally, first-year recruits of the Vigilante group are sent to search for enemies in the labyrinth as training and only receive half their salary. Although their regular task which was to guard the labyrinth does not change.

“Garrison-san too, it’s rare to see you alone. Jofre-san and Elize-san came to

the labyrinth too.”

“You saw them!?”

“Yes, they were chatting as they went down the stairs leading to the second floor.”

“Really!? Thanks!”

I thanked her and quickly sprinted off.

Those idiots, why are they going to the second floor?

Have they not noticed that I’m not there!?

## **(216) Side Story Garrison’s Adventure Diary 3**

That was the first time I entered the second floor of the Beginner’s Labyrinth on my own.

There was a saying amongst the adventurers.

[The second floor of a labyrinth is a whole new ballgame compared to the first.]

The first floor of a labyrinth houses the weakest monsters in the labyrinth.

It was said that if you could win one-versus-two of the first floor monsters, you could fight one-versus-one against the second-floor monsters.

In other words, fighting a single monster from the second floor was equal to fighting two monsters from the first floor.

That did not mean that the second-floor enemies were purely two times stronger than the first-floor enemies.

There were monsters called Large Bat in the labyrinth second floor. They hang from the ceiling and there’s the risk of being attacked from directly above if you let your guard down.

Also, their body tackle using their swift movements was said to be as strong

as the blow from a sheep at the barn and could even dent iron armor.

But, thankfully I can use a spear with a long reach so I would not be defeated as long as I notice an attack from the ceiling.

(Although I only have a pickaxe now.)

Then, I stepped on something.

I kept looking up above so I seemed to have neglected my footing.

What was it? When I looked down, I saw fragments of rocks.

It would not be an issue to see fallen rocks in an ordinary cave.

However, in a labyrinth, that was not possible.

Any inanimate objects that fall to the ground inside the labyrinth, apart from those covered by a cloth soaked in some special fluid, will be absorbed by the labyrinth. Even rocks like those would not be exempted.

The time for the object to be absorbed differs according to the object but rocks like those would disappear in a few hours.

“Jofre huh?”

That guy. He’s using rocks instead of markers.

Certainly, if they plan to return within a few hours, placing rocks like this was not wrong.

He worked at a quarry. He probably had a large number of such scrap stones.

I guess that guy was using his head too – -.

It happened when I was seeing Jofre in a new light.

I noticed a moving shadow in the corner of my vision.

I hurriedly looked up and saw a Large Bat attacking me from above.

“ – – Tch!”

I thrust out the pickaxe with a strange cry.

The Large Bat sucked my pickaxe into its mouth.

The preparation for the Large Bar skewer was complete in the blink of an eye.

Cleaning up the mess would have been troublesome if this was the surface but the dead Large Bat disappeared like smoke, leaving behind Large Bat fangs and a magic stone. The Large Bat fangs can't be sold so I only picked up the magic stone, took a breather and screamed after calming down.

“That guy is an idiot after all!”

Why would you choose markers that you have to take note of at your feet when you are in a labyrinth that requires your attention to be on the ceiling!

Well, Jofre and Elize are a team. If they have a clear role where one of them takes note of their footing and the other of the ceiling then it is possible but if they just leave a marking – – I picked up the stone Jofre left behind.

It was limestone so I could easily leave a mark on the wall.

The marking would disappear after a few hours too but it was probably better than leaving rocks on the ground.

By the way, if I mixed the limestone powder with the aforementioned special liquid, I would be able to create an ink that won't disappear even in labyrinths but leaving markings in a Church-managed labyrinth was a criminal act so naturally, I didn't bring any with me.

Nevertheless, it was good that I had a clue.

“All things aside, I'm surprised those two can pass through here unharmed.”

The third floor ahead was the Goblin nest.

It would be quite tough for a low-level Apprentice Swordsman.

※ ※ ※

“Further down huh? That's really going to be tough.”

I rushed through the third floor while being mobbed by the Goblins.

“Hn?”

I found the stones that Jofre left behind but – – it was strange.

It was a dead-end.

“Sheesh, if you dropped it then pick it up.”

I picked up the rock and threw it at the wall in frustration.

The rock hit the wall and rebounded – – or it was supposed to but it soared through the wall.

An illusionary wall!?

I have heard of places in labyrinths where there are traversable passages that look just like a wall but that was the first time I actually saw one.

In the first place, there wasn't a single person who would run into a dead-end of their own volition in a Goblin-infested area. For that reason, nobody has ever approached that wall before.

No, I should change my phrasing.

Only an idiot would enter a passage that seems to be a dead-end in a Goblin-infested area.

"Jofre, Elize, are you guys there!?"

I shouted towards the illusionary wall.

"Hn? That voice belongs to Garrison! We're here."

"We're here, Garrison!"

They replied.

Thank god, it seems that they are all right.

I approached the illusionary wall while keeping an eye out for traps.

Behind it was a small room-like space without any monsters.

Moving further into the back of the room, I saw Jofre and Elize crouched against a corner of the wall.

"Jofre, Elize, what are you guys doing?"

"Garrison, we found something amazing."

Jofre replied.

Something amazing?

Perhaps it's treasure!? If that's the case, I can bring it back and give it to

Katyusha-chan as a present.

“I don’t see anything.”

There wasn’t anything there.

I mixed in a sigh and leaned against the wall.

Then – – a protrusion on the wall was sucked into the wall.

It seemed to be some kind of switch. But it was already too late by the time I realized that.

“Ah, Garrison. The switch there opens a pitfall if you press it so be careful.”

Elize’s warning was a second too late.

The floor below my feet opened with a snap and the three of us fell together into the abyss.

## **(217) Side Story Garrison’s Adventure Diary 4**

The bottom of the pitfall was a slope which I slid down.

I imagined spikes under the pitfall which would impale the victims but that didn’t seem to be the case. If the intention was to kill then there wouldn’t be a need for such a long slope.

“Damn it.”

I tried to brace myself but there was very little friction with the slope. It wasn’t just a slope. Even when I pushed against the wall with my gloved palms, even the walls were also slippery. I had no idea how such smooth walls were made but at any rate, I had no choice other than to allow my body to slide along.

After sliding for quite a distance, I saw a pitfall leading downwards. I fell into the hole without any means to resist. At least I’ll aim to properly mitigate my fall and stand ready.

Then, I fell from a height of about two and a half meters. I can't say that my landing was perfect but at least I didn't suffer any external injuries.

Then, situated there was —

“Orc!?”

Or not — it was the Goddess statue for Koshmar-sama.

Why is it here?

No, don't tell me —

(This is the Goddess Statue room!?)

Are you kidding me? Did we reach the Goddess Statue room without even defeating the boss?

(No, I've heard of it before ... some labyrinths have secret passageways that lead straight to the Goddess Statue room — so this labyrinth is one of them huh?) Well now, I'm likely to receive special remuneration if I inform the guild of this place.

For now, since I reached this place, let's devote a prayer to the Goddess Statue.

【Title: Labyrinth Conqueror acquired】

【Clear Reward skill: Labyrinth Tool Transmutation acquired】

— !?

Labyrinth Tool Transmutation?

Serious!? It felt like I struck the lottery.

Labyrinth Tool Transmutation was a skill that allowed a person to transmute items that can be used in a labyrinth. It was an extremely rare skill and if I went to the Church, I could even get the same treatment as a Priest just by having that skill.

My life was looking to become rose-colored!

Just as I looked to the heavens, those two came falling down.

“What are you doing there, Garrison?”



“Whatchu doing there, Garrison?”

Jofre and Elize asked even though it was obvious just by looking as they were sitting on my back.

“I was crushed by you guys, just hurry up and move!”

Jofre and Elize didn’t stand up despite my angry outburst as they continued with their thoughts.

“At any rate, that was an amazingly slippery slope — by the way, it felt like I would experience that again but how about you, Elize?”

“I too felt something similar, Jofre. It must be one of those Déjà vu.”

“Hey hey, Elize. If it hasn’t happened then it can’t be Déjà vu. That was a precognitive dream.”

“Precognitive dream? Then was that a dream, Jofre?”

“I see, so it was a dream! No wonder it didn’t hurt even when I fell!”

“You guys didn’t feel any pain because I cushioned you! Get off now and go pray to the Goddess-sama or something!”

Jofre and Elize finally realized that there was a Goddess Statue in front of them and they prayed to it.

Upon doing so, a small gem-like rock fell in front of Jofre and a spear fell in front of Elize.

“Woah, you guys are lucky too. A skill book and a magic spear.”

The skill book was the small rock that you can learn a skill from.

It was unknown what skill you would learn unless you appraise it. But it was an item that can be traded for at least a gold coin.

A magic spear was as its name implied a spear that you could channel magic into.

Well, both of those can’t beat the skill I acquired but they were under the win category.

“We did it, Elize. Quickly, give it a try now.”

“It’s all right, it belongs to Jofre so Jofre should use it.”

“You guys, leave that for later. More importantly, let’s hurry up and go back.”

I pushed against the door behind me — and realized.

The door was locked.

“We’re trapped?”

Now that I think about it, the door to the back of the boss room won’t open unless you defeat the boss.

In other words, we won’t be able to exit until somebody clears this labyrinth?

But lately, the number of people challenging the labyrinth has decreased. People do periodically exterminate the monsters at the upper floors but it might take weeks until an adventurer comes all the way to this floor.

” ... Is there some other way to exit?”

There was a keyhole-like slot but naturally I did not have the key and neither did I know lock picking techniques. Even if I could, the door was special so I would probably not be able to open it.

I finally got my hands on a rare skill so I would rather not die of hunger here ... hn?

Rare skill huh — I wonder what kind of tools can I transmute?

I tried checking.

Level 1: Labyrinth Key   Required materials: Wire
---

Labyrinth Key? Oi oi, is this a dream? Prophetic dream?

To think it’s actually possible to create the key — lucky.

But it’s still impossible ... if I think about it, there’s no wire anywhere — hn?

Speaking of which, I remembered and took it out.

The weapon Elize gave me — the sewing needle.

This is made of metal too so it should be the perfect wire right? (TL: In

*Japanese wire can be translated loosely as needle metal which explains his logic.)*